



Digital Production Planning Holistic Consideration of Multi-Stage Production and Bidirectional SAP Binding

The Dr. Wolff Group is a fourth-generation family-owned company in Bielefeld with around 800 employees. Its products are world-renowned and the company operates in over 60 countries.

The group of companies is divided into two subsidiaries. Dr. Kurt Wolff develops hair care and styling products, hair colorants, care and decorative cosmetics, and dental care. The brands ALCINA, Alpecin, Bioniq, Karex and Plantur are at home here.

Dr. August Wolff manufactures dermatological and gynecological medicines and cosmetic products for the Vagisan and Linola brands.

Overview:

- **Industry:**
Pharmaceutical and cosmetics
- **Solution:**
Production Planning from FASTEC with the Preplanning and Detailed Scheduling functions.
- **Benefits:**
Mastering complexity – holistic representation of multi-stage production processes as well as central information preparation for continuous transparency were the focal points of the project.

"Initially, we only wanted to replace Excel planning and map the daily business to production Planning. Now we were even able to save the planning rules in the system, which previously only existed in the planners' heads."

Jens Müller

Head of Operations Planning, Dr. Kurt Wolff GmbH & Co. KG





The Road to Digital Production Planning

1 Initial Situation

SAP was used to manage relevant master data for the production and the rough planning was carried out. Detailed scheduling and production control took place in a complex Excel spreadsheet, which had a high degree of variability and many intervention options.

Due to the very high product variety in the different sales channels, the previous planning had reached its limits. This procedure was only suitable to a limited extent for the challenges of multi-stage production and was based heavily on the experience and knowledge of the employees.

2 Objectives

- The transfer of knowledge among employees is to be improved and planning support is to be added. Information that was previously only available in the heads of the planning staff is to be stored in the software.
- Transparency about restrictions, rules and processes should be created and be accessible to all employees.
- Redundant data is to be eliminated in order to reduce the maintenance effort by comparing data in Excel and SAP and to avoid transmission errors.

3 Project Procedure

In order to find the right digital planning solution, the possibilities and options for a tool were compared with the respective costs at various providers. FASTEC was able to prevail because the requirements were met and the budgeting framework was adhered to. In addition, the interpersonal factor was right, the exchange was at eye level right from the start and the proximity to the location was also an advantage. In particular, the initial consideration of individual customer requirements was carried out in detail. Last but not least, the certified SAP interface also provided security for a good integrability of the FASTEC software.

It was clear at an early stage that SAP was the leading system in the IT system architecture and the transition from Excel planning to the new planning system was a hard cut. The interdependencies between production lines, buffer tanks and filling lines can only be taken into account by looking at them holistically in a central planning system. Based on the requirements of Dr. Kurt Wolff, FASTEC had the opportunity to further develop the planning software simultaneously to the project and to implement new features into the standard Production Planning software. The multi-stage production

processes were taken into account and mapped by the seamless interaction of Preplanning and Detailed Scheduling.

Dr. Kurt Wolff has formed a core team for the project, consisting of SAP system managers and production planners. This provided the necessary know-how for the end-to-end processes. It was avoided to make adjustments in SAP and the adaptation of FASTEC was preferred.

The implemented functions were continuously tested and trained throughout the implementation of the system. In this way, an impression of the later overall picture of the planning process was already created during the implementation phase.

The final training sessions at the end of the project gave employees confidence in using the system. Now the routine sustainably optimizes usability and is supported by the direct jump to the context-sensitive online help.

Derive Special Case from Standard



Innovative Planning Process

• Solution

Master and transaction data are transferred from SAP to FASTEC. Pre-planning sorts and groups production orders according to various criteria. This allows orders to be grouped together that, for example, require the same content in different formats. Optimized order sequencing creates campaigns to minimize setup efforts. The campaigns are scheduled to the work centers in production using the Gantt chart in detailed planning. Multi-resource planning takes into account the capacities of equipment and resources. Finally, the planning data is reported back to SAP.

• Conclusion

For FASTEC, this is a groundbreaking project for the alignment of production planning. Dr. Kurt Wolff provided the necessary input through requirements and process knowledge. This enabled the product management to focus the further development and to prioritize the customer benefits. The new functions and working methods are now available as standard functions for further planning projects.

„The routine will get the most out of the system.“

„Preplanning is very intuitive to use.“

„For our requirements FASTEC was the best choice, especially with the focus on detailed scheduling.“

„The cooperation was always open and communicative.“

„SAP is the lead system and passes the data to FASTEC, where it is prepared and fed back again. This automatism is a huge advantage for us.“

Jens Müller

Head of Operations Planning, Dr. Kurt Wolff GmbH & Co. KG

Open Collaboration Convinces