CASE STUDY

Efficient and fresh

Emmi relies on a uniform system landscape for cross site warehouse and network control.

Snapshot

Company
Emmi

Industry
Food

Solutions

- Warehouse Management System
- Distributed Order Management System

Locations

- 22 sites of their national distribution network, Switzerland

Outside Switzerland, Emmi concentrates and focuses on brand concepts and specialities in established European and North American markets and increasingly in emerging markets outside of Europe. The primary focus in fresh products is on lifestyle, convenience and health products. In the cheese business, Emmi positions itself as the leading company worldwide for Swiss cheese. Emmi's customers are the retail trade, the hospitality and food service sector and the food industry.

The project
Since the end of 2016, the largest Swiss milk processor, Emmi, utilizes a uniform system landscape for cross site warehouse and network control. Its core is the Infios Distributed Order Management System (DOM) to control the national logistics network, for which a standardized empty goods management has also been created.

Nearly all sites from which goods are shipped have also been equipped with Infios's Warehouse Management System (WMS), while its accompanying Logistics Service Accounting System (LSA) is used to quantitatively record and evaluate logistics services to invoice them for internal or external customers.

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Emmi

The solution
As an international company headquartered in Luczerne, Switzerland, Emmi exports a full range of cheeses, dairy and fresh products to around 60 countries worldwide. The logistics processes in operative outbound business have proven to be highly problematic for the company. For this reason, Emmi tasked Infios with implementing a standardized software landscape, which it realized in multiple steps at 22 sites from 2014 to 2016.

Gradually, a logistics control instrument that displays all goods movements was implemented, i.e. DOM. Beginning with the connection of the software solution to the existing ERP system, the coupling to the comprehensive, new SAP ERP level took place in several project stages. During these stages, the DOM was placed between the ERP systems and the warehouse levels, which gives Emmi complete transparency over all elements and services of the logistics chain.

In doing so, the solution started meeting precisely those requirements that, in combination with an WMS, enable smooth planning and control of goods flows across more than 20 sites.

The different picking and outbound delivery warehouses of the Emmi Group in Switzerland were connected step-by-step. The WMS first went live in 2014 at the site Ostermundigen near Bern. The largest Swiss Emmi site mainly produces fresh products and transfers approximately

„The go-live of the entire system offers enormous opportunities. The new system landscape delivers a solid basis that provides all options for future extension.“

Max Peter
Director Trade & SCM, Emmi

350,000 pallets with cooled and 65,000 pallets with uncooled goods, next to 30,000 pallets with retail goods. The appropriate technology for this encompasses a refrigerated high bay warehouse with adjacent areas, a new material flow system for the newly created pallet technology including an electronic monorail conveyor system, automated storage and retrieval systems in the high bay warehouse and various radio frequency connections. Infios's WMS achieves the gapless connection of all goods movements in this area.

Later in the project, a consistent template approach was rolled out. Infios was able to use the process structure Ostermundigen at the individual sites after a few modifications with regard to their different complexities and characteristics. The employees of Emmi logistics now have uniform system interfaces for their daily work. In addition, distribution logistics benefits from informational and comparable logistic parameters and harmonized processes that assure transparent and efficient warehouse operations. This is also the basis for the fast and flexible integration of future sites.

Since the migration from an ERP system to a different one is not always without complications, changes to the ERP level were mostly uncoupled from all executional systems, which were thus established independently of the ERP world. Infios installed the supply chain execution system in the form of an intermediately stored process level via which standardized interfaces between the WMS and DOM were created. New processes, such as cross-docking, flow through and single procurement, could be tested early and the software used before the actual ERP migration took place.

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