

EFFICIENCY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY

Introduction

Although it sounds simple, having as much knowledge as possible, and keeping that knowledge accurate up to the minute, is the most important factor when considering any logistical problem. This in itself presents an enormous challenge to many businesses, regardless of the industry they operate within. The main issue here is the identification of the information relevant to a business' internal processes and the dissemination thereof to the necessary parties as quickly and directly as possible.

Logistical processes are a particular focus of the cement and bulk industries. This makes it all the

Sabine Bueschl, FRITZ & MACZIOL, Germany, highlights the features of an intelligent logistics system for the cement and bulk materials industry.

more important to cut through the complexities of the industry's broad array of interdependent relationships and achieve a global transparency.

Application

The key aim of FRITZ & MACZIOL's intelligent logistics software is to enable the recording of productivity data in real-time, independent of location.

Emphasis is put on material flow examination along the entire logistical chain, from receipt through to material call-off and delivery. This information can then be adapted into the order books at any time. The relevant data must be compiled in valid

figures targeted at the stakeholder group. A high performance, precisely calibrated information-driven basis of operating can become the turning point for a company's success.

The software is specifically tailored to the needs of the cement and bulk materials industry and acts as a link between a company's enterprise resource planning

Figure 1. VAS 5's transaction view.

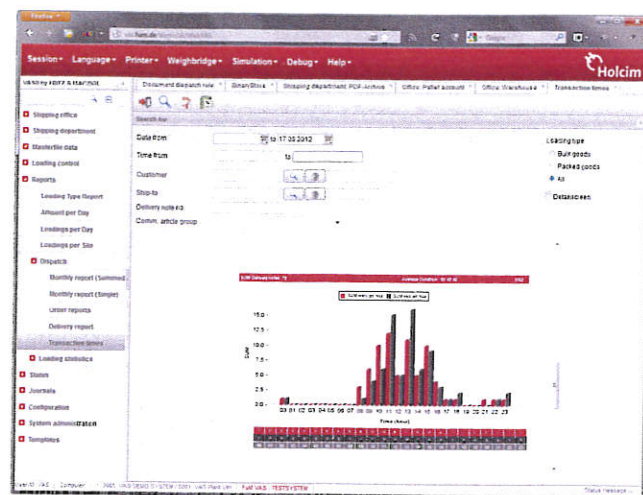


Figure 2. VAS 5's loading report.

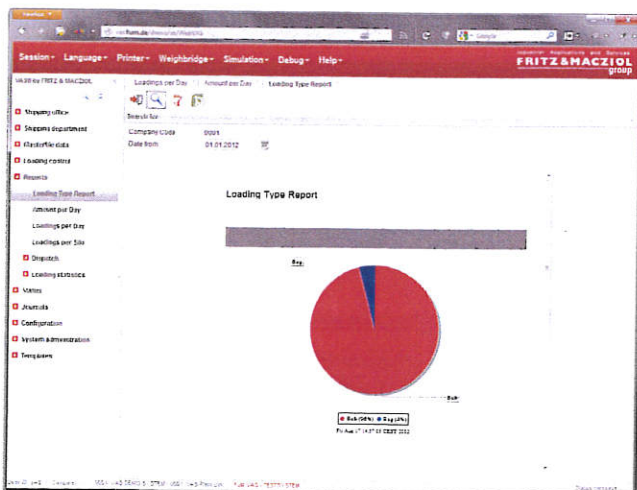
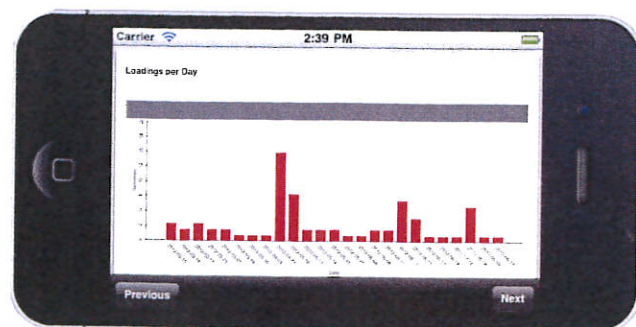


Figure 3. VAS 5 transaction view, displayed on a smartphone.



(ERP) system and its technical facilities in order to illustrate the full process. It also supports reporting, supplying real-time information from other systems such as production, sales or control, which can all be fully integrated into the system if required.

Full stakeholder incorporation

VAS v5 also takes another industry requirement into account by providing a web-based user interface that can be accessed remotely via all standard web browsers. This puts authorised users in the powerful position of being able to access any relevant data in real-time from anywhere in the world via the internet. This allows for the absolute transparency of the process. Freight forwarders and customers can be incorporated securely into the system; the controlling company can decide which screens or fields the individual customer, freight forwarder or employee has access to. In order to arrange the user's working processes efficiently, only data relevant to the user is displayed, and the efficiency of the process is maintained through the utilisation of modern web-technologies, locating all information centrally rather than forcing download to the local computer. Lots of information that once needed to be called up by telephone is now available online. Specific customer records and truck management in the factory (stand and process times) can be called up in real-time. The up-to-date nature of all information means that meeting the need to deliver "just-in-time" is ensured and optimised by online access. Indeed, through the integration of silo filling level monitoring from the VAS partner Orbit Solutions, order processes can even be triggered automatically.

Driving standardisation forward

It is possible to define standard processes using centrally established templates that need only to be adapted to the specific features and legal specifications of the various local plants. With this central control, integration of VAS into ERP or invoicing systems such as SAP, Oracle or Navision is facilitated and can be controlled centrally from a company's head office. Therefore, VAS offers a cross-border standardisation of processes. Small and medium-sized businesses are also able to gain flexibility because the web-based solution can be simply implemented or used directly as a "cloud service".

VAS is currently used around the globe in more than 120 plants across the basic materials industries and is continually adapted to suit both global and national requirements. The following examples of Dyckerhoff AG and Holcim Philippines, Inc. show the system at work in two specific practical situations.

Dyckerhoff: business tuning at the highest level

Dyckerhoff AG is a leading German manufacturer and transporter of cement and concrete and holds further group companies in Luxembourg, the Netherlands,

Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials
Seventeenth Arab-International Cement Conference and Exhibition
17-19, December 2012, Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, U.A.E.
We proudly present at FRITZ & MACZIOL booth D22 - 23
VAS® 5 - Next generation: mobile App, web 3.0, new design



WE KNOW **THE WAY** FORWARD.



- VAS® - Powerful solutions increase your efficiencies**
- Complete control of inbound and outbound logistics.
 - Fully automated solution with 24 x 7 hotline.
 - Modular concept with flexible standardised interfaces.

Your benefit: Customised logistics solutions based on our consulting & engineering know-how.

For any need! For any platform! For any company size!



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Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia and the US. The company required detailed illustration of raw materials, which was only possible via integration of the VAS logistics system into SAP material management. Simple connection to SAP Sales and Distribution was therefore an important factor in creating a suitable solution. The implemented software was initially tested in Dyckerhoff's cement plants in Esch, Luxembourg, and Göllheim, Germany, before the full international rollout. During the course of this trial, each plant's process requirements were analysed and redefined in several workshops. In order to keep the company's options open in the future, the integration of internet functionality for processes such as scheduling was important. The company's processes began to show improvement even during the pilot projects. Other features, such as the photographic registration of weighing results, led to further optimisation. These first two projects were also used to optimise cooperation between plants in order to ensure that there was a solid foundation in place for the international rollout in March 2012.

Holcim Philippines relies on automation

In July 2012, FRITZ & MACZIOL and MACZIOL Asia were commissioned by Holcim Philippines to introduce

VAS into its four cement plants as well as a terminal. As the leading cement manufacturer in the Philippines, Holcim is always looking to optimise its business processes with greater degrees of automation and the integrated illustration of an increasing number of its procedures. For example, the company's trucks will be automatically weighed in the future. Using this method, the company saves time, which can then be better spent engaging in value-creating processes and taking care of customers and partners. The logistical processes at Holcim will be seamlessly integrated in the central IT systems via VAS. The company wants to improve stability, reliability and efficiency of all daily processes across its plants. The strain on members of personnel will be relieved by automation as they will have to occupy themselves less with operating IT systems.

Conclusion

The VAS system can be tailored to meet the logistical demands of any business and, by automating various processes, can divert human resources into value creation. The software's steps towards global standardisation and remote accessibility are an elegant solution to the expansive nature of the cement industry that puts it in a position to step confidently into the future. 🌐

SPECIALISTS IN CAST PARTS FOR THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

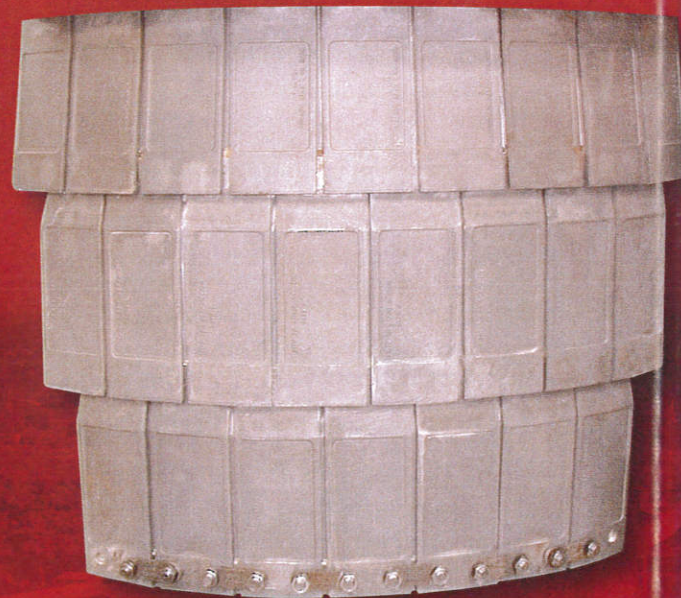
Aceros y Suministros, S.A. was founded in 1951. We manufacture and supply all types of cast, machined and forged spare parts for an extensive range of machinery used in the production and processing of cement.

Our collaboration with leading cement engineers and the largest cement plants worldwide for over 40 years has provided us with the know-how, experience and training our company needs to meet the most demanding requirements for spare parts within the cement industry.

SPÉCIALISTES DANS LA FONDERIE DE PIÈCES POUR L'INDUSTRIE DU CIMENT

Aceros y Suministros S.A. a été fondée en 1951. Nous fabriquons et fournissons tout type de pièces de rechange, mécanisées et fondues, ainsi que des pièces forgées, pour diverses gammes de machines de production et de traitement du ciment.

Notre collaboration avec les principaux fournisseurs d'équipements et de services pour l'industrie de ciment et des minéraux, et les plus importantes installations de ciment au monde pendant plus de 40 ans, nous a apporté un savoir-faire, une maturité et une préparation nous permettant de satisfaire les plus hautes exigences quant aux pièces de rechange de l'industrie du ciment.



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