

# From analogue paperwork to digital production

LECO-Werke Lechtreck GmbH & Co. KG - a manufacturer of technical textiles, wallcoverings and textiles for garden and leisure applications based in Emsdetten - has been relying on Halo's textile know-how since 2012. LECO is a company renowned in the field, with a long tradition: in over 100 years of the company's development, foresightful investments and a high level of employee com-

mitment have led to international success. With our project for LECO we faced the challenge of replacing an existing MES system and integrating it seamlessly and completely into the existing ERP system via an interface.

## **FACTBOX**

- Total integration of all manufacturing processes
- Integrated planning of capacities and yarn requirements
- Digitisation of all master and process data
- Quality management
- Interaction ERP <-> MES

## **GOALS AND REQUIREMENTS**

LECO was in search of a solution for work preparation and scheduling. The aim was to integrate 70 weaving machines and 6 pre-processing machines into the MES and to guarantee the most transparent and clear representation of the data obtained.

There was a specification for entirely paperless management of the "Schärbriefe" and "Schär-

datenblätter" - an internal LECO name for the technical data sheets for warping and weaving - an overview of master data, the creation of production papers, a simple overview of the yarn requirement, the creation of piece-related cards and a completely seamless connection to the ERP system were also required. The project turned out to be particularly challenging because, on the one hand, there was no programming know-how for the existing, in-house developed MES system due to personnel changes in the company, and on the other hand the demanding system was not documented in detail - so there was a bit of creativity and "reverse engineering" required.



### **IMPLEMENTATION AND SPECIFICS**

Our MES solution inteos® enables LECO to plan all production processes efficiently and in a targeted manner and to present them completely consistently and transparently. With Halo's flexible work methodology that is customized for a given project, we were able to react at any time to desired changes and adjustments - which was of central importance especially in this project, in which unexpected challenges had to be accounted for at all times due to the special structure of the existing MES.

Among the new functionalities that we implemented, the new PDA planning department stands out

in particular: 70 web and 6 production machines can be optimally managed thanks to an intuitive, clear MES display, thus ensuring continuous, efficient machine utilization.

LECO's internal technical web item master for the administration of the parameters for machine and article setting, called "Schärbrief", is normally implemented with proprietary CAD programs. This "intermediate layer" (which incurs separate costs) was avoided by connecting an Excel solution programmed in-house by LECO to inteos® via an interactive interface. In this way, all the data from the technical data sheets for warping and weaving can be automatically integrated into the

"Leco's high requirements for continuous integration of all manufacturing processes have on the one hand been a great challenge for us, but on the other hand have led to a highly specialized, optimally integrated and therefore pioneering MES solution in teamwork with Leco."

Marcus Ott, inteos® project manager

system - double data maintenance is superfluous and the process flow is correspondingly more efficient and more ecological due to the lack of paper.

This was not possible with the previously existing MES system. The other functions requested by LECO also work smoothly: from the very clear presentation of the yarn requirement to the comprehensive master data overview to 100% continuous connection to the existing ERP system. The implementation of these requirements also took place without the described, particularly challenging initial situation becoming noticeable for LECO in any way - neither in terms of time or quality, without delays in terms of time or technical compromises.





### **BENEFIT AND STATEMENT**

Because a MES program specially tailored to the needs of the company and programmed for them was used before inteos® was used, LECO was a demanding customer who had precise ideas and extensive knowledge of the functionality and the potential strengths and weaknesses of a MES program. We see such prior knowledge on the part of the customer not only as a challenge, but above all as capital to be used: the better the customer knows his own needs and requirements, the more detailed we can be, starting in project planning. An inteos® project is never "finished" in the true sense of the word - the software is constantly being further developed and expanded to include new functions in the course of ongoing collaboration.

So far, this will have successfully met the special requirements with our project, as we can best summarize in the words of Christoph Seiger, Operations Manager at LECO:

We can only confirm that everything Halo promises will be implemented. The employees at Halo have a very good understanding of textiles, know the specifics of the different textile industries and thus speak our textile language. The collaboration was and is always good and goaloriented. We are confident that we have chosen the right partner.

**Christoph Seiger, Operations Manager at LECO** 



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Case Study





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