

"The opportunity to use the IKS system during our **Kanban Pilot Project** was the perfect solution for GEDIA", explained Mr. Wendt, Logistics Manager of the factory in Spain. "This offered us the chance to evaluate the new PULL processes and to test the software without any risks regarding the investment."

The Kanban project started end of the year 2009 at the plant of GEDIA Gebrüder Dingerkus GmbH to evaluate the benefits of a PULL driven scheduling process supported by the IKS system.



The **objective of the project** was to guarantee that a complete PULL system was the best solution for the factory in Spain but also that such processes can be used at other plants of the GEDIA group in the future and that the expected benefits and savings can be reached.

Especially the dynamic scheduling of Kanban production orders via IKS Kanban Board was required to manage the huge amount of Kanban cards at the shop-floor in a stable way.

"By using a manual Kanban scheduling process it would be necessary that we are placing huge manual Kanban boards directly at the shop-floor; but this was not possible in our production environment", explained Mr. David Martin, Production Manager in Spain. "Additionally the risk of lost Kanban cards was not acceptable."

Due to the fact that GEDIA has to deliver in small specific customer containers, but the production lot-sizes at the existing pressing machines are still high (although the setup times have been reduced), the number of required Kanbans is also very high for single item numbers.

The **IKS e-Kanban Board** allows the visualization of all Kanban orders directly at the shop-floor in real-time. Additionally the electronic Kanban Board shows the priority of the Kanban orders for each single machine. The Kanban cards are displayed only on the screen of the board. When the production of the items is started, the new Kanban cards will be printed again by the operator.

Such a Kanban system enables dynamic production scheduling processes based on real PULL signals. This new way of handling production orders has resulted in explicit savings and improvements against the existing planning and scheduling processes.



"We have reached our objective to visualize all Kanban orders directly at the machine in real-time. The operators know always what must be produced next and take the right decisions", told us Mr. Marco Nebot, who was responsible for the implementation and optimization of the new processes.

"Our first goal is to reach 100% of material availability for the welding machines downstream. The IKS Kanban Board supports our employees in their decisions", adds Mr. Wendt.

Also one **external supplier** has been linked to the Kanban system at the first project phase.

Raw material which will be surfaced by the supplier as well as final surfaced parts which are delivered by the supplier to GEDIA will be managed via Kanban. The new supplier process has been integrated into the complete supply-chain process without any problems.



The following **savings and improvements** have been reached during the Kanban pilot project:

- ✓ Reduction of inventory for press parts about 30%
- ✓ Reduction of inventory for welding parts about 40%
- ✓ Increase of material availability (dramatic less missing parts)
- ✓ Reduction of required floor-space (very important because of the size of the parts)
- ✓ Creation of a very high visualization about current inventory and Kanban orders
- ✓ Strong reduction of required time and effort for the planning and scheduling department
- ✓ Set up of standard processes based on real consumption (real PULL system)

Conclusion

"The Kanban pilot project has shown that a complete PULL system is possible also for a very production intensive environment", explained Mr. Martin the positive results.

"Without the support of the electronic Kanban system such a scheduling process would be very difficult to handle or nearly impossible. We are very satisfied with the easy way to handle the IKS system and with the advanced functionalities of the software. Additionally IKS helps us to establish standard process for the Kanban system", told Mr. Wendt.

The future

After GEDIA Spain realized the positive effects of a PULL system by using the IKS system, also other factories in the company group are interested in using such kind of efficient e-Kanban processes to improve their business.

Also the Spanish team plans the extension of the new production planning system for additional products and business areas.

"We are sure that this is the best way for the company and we will move forward this way" Mr. David Martin told clearly. "The benefits are very clear and the IKS investment has a real short ROI" clarified Mr. Wendt at the end of the project. "We have made a lot helpful experiences and now we are also able to help other GEDIA sites to get the same success".

Additional informationen you will find under

www.gedia.com

www.manufactus.com