



Zimmermann trusts in Cantor software systems



Efficiently organised: Site 2 after the implementation of the reorganisation project.

Networked to a high degree

The window construction business of Zimmermann Fenster- und Türen, family-owned and managed for 125 years, completes one of the most ambitious innovation projects of its history. During the present reorganisation, Zimmermann has put all processes to the test. Halls have been extended, production lines moved, new machines integrated. To achieve maximum performance and efficiency, they have also invested in a software solution that networks all departments of the company. The search for a suitable solution ended at Albat+Wirsam.

amount of Zimmermann's know-how. The same applies to the Winkhaus fittings and the high-quality IG made by Saint-Gobain. »In the same way in which we are relying on the direct feedback from our sales partners, our system suppliers need our input. Our constructive criticism is already

For 40 years, Zimmermann have been producing PVC-U windows, and for 29 years in close cooperation with system supplier Rehau. In three plants, the company produces approx. 89.000 windows and 2.500 front and side entrance doors per year. With their own fleet, Zimmermann deliver their products not only to customers in Hessen and Thuringia, but also to Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, North Rhi-



The owner, Klaus Zimmermann, and his wife Gerda are is the fourth generation managing the company.



*Shop talk in the order processing department:
The Zimmermann team Jan Meister (left) and Cantor expert Dr. Ralf Mühlhans, Albat+Wirsam Software AG.*

ne- Westphalia, and northward beyond Hanover. By 2012, the Zimmermann team will increase its production to 100.000 units per year. Zimmermann Fenster + Türen GmbH distribute their products solely via a dealer and reseller network. Their distributors and fitters praise them as a top-class supplier. To justify this, day by day, Klaus Zimmermann, who is managing the

company together with his wife Gerda in fourth generation, sets great store on the close contact with his suppliers. Zimmermann therefore likes to look over the shoulders of the Rehau developers when a new line of profiles is being designed, and it is safe to assume that products like the profile system Geneo which has been introduced in 2008 include a certain

included in the preliminary products. Customers and suppliers both benefit in the same way«.

Trusting in proven software

In the course of reorganising the three production sites, Zimmermann has extended the production halls, has rearranged the production lines, and integrated new machinery. The result is a straight and highly efficient production. To be able to exploit the machinery's performance to the best effect, Zimmermann relies on a comprehensive business network. Optimally configured, this integrates

all departments of the company and every single workstation - from order entry PC to the cutting and machining centre.

„Like no other system on the market, Cantor integrates administration and production in a seamless information network. When we enter an order and schedule it for production, the resulting information is available throughout the company, and automatically triggers all processes that are required for production and just-in-time delivery“, production manager Ralf Gierok backs up Zimmermann's decision.

A high degree of transparency

IT manager Mario Markgraf adds: „Delivery dates are mostly defined based on experience, adding a safety margin. Cantor however permits to determine the actual production time for an order within seconds, at the same time calculating the costs.“

Shortly after an order has been entered and 'sent off' by a mouse-click, it is scheduled for production. Cantor capacity planning informs the user when the windows can be produced, and on which production line. At the same time, the system checks whether all necessary elements are on stock, whether elements have to be ordered, and if so, when the missing parts will arrive. The CNC data

for controlling the machines are created, cutting and machining is started. Purchase orders for glass are issued, even considering longer delivery times for special glass types. The software also enables Zimmermann to trace the production status of the orders and even an order items. Based on comprehensive factory data collection, the order status is permanently reported from the shop floor to the Cantor database. The integrated status management monitors the delivery date of every single order; the administrator can inform customers of the order's processing status at all times.

Since the first window has been entered in the Cantor system in 2008, there has not been a shred of order file anywhere in the company. Meanwhile, Cantor has been generally installed on the shop floor and

for administration purposes so that neither work orders, hand-drawn sketches, or similar, problematic 'data carriers' are required.

The Cantor CIM terminals (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) are equipped with monitors for this purpose, true-to-scale graphic images replacing stacks of paper and files.

Done with searching

When picking deliveries, Zimmermann no longer needs to search for windows or accessories. Every finished product is automatically assigned a numbered position in the shipping stock.

When the shipping lot is printed, the system automatically issues a packing list showing the storing place of every single window and door. Instead of searching for the products, the workers in this area can concentrate on their main task: packing.

Additionally, the barcode of every element is scanned when it is loaded onto the lorry. This puts a stop to forgetting the accessories, a problem which used to cause considerable costs in the past.

Top priority for the sales manager Thomas Buß has the performance of Cantor's dealer software Zimmermann provides his dealers with. "One of the reasons to go ahead with Cantor", says Buß, „was that Albat+Wirsam are offering the best and most frequently used dealer software in Germany“.

During the implementation of Cantor CIM, the production manager Ralf Gierok checks the scanning of blind covers. The Cantor CIM monitor shows him the matching casement.



Geneo - new generation of windows

Thanks to the use of the composite Rau Fipro, Geneo window profiles are as sturdy as common steel profiles but up to 40 % lighter. Nearly 90 % of all applications can be handled without steel armaments. Windows from fully armed, steel-less Geneo profiles have even successfully passed the test for the burglar-resistance class WK 2. With a U, BW value of up to 0,8W/m K, the requirements of today's and future energy saving regulations of 2012 are met – even today. The new generation of window profiles has already reached a share of over 15% in Zimmermann's product range. In the light of energy saving, the share of triple IG is constantly increasing and has currently reached about 35%. SGG Climatop N Light, supplied by Glaskontor Bamberg, is 25 % lighter than the common triple IG.

At fensterbau, Zimmermann are going to introduce new features of the Geneo family.

*Marko Rehm, scheduler:
The equipment of his workstation shows the importance of IT-controlled processes for Zimmermann Fenster +Türen GmbH*

