

PLANTA Reduces Resource Conflicts in Development Projects



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Through the implementation of PLANTA PPMS project management software, the Reichle & De-Massari AG (R&M)—a leading Swiss supplier of cabling solutions for high-quality communication networks—achieved the integration of project and resource planning. After just two months of software use in product development and management, the number of resource conflicts had been reduced from 28 to 1. Having an overview of available resources also led to an increase in efficiency and a decrease in dead times in development projects.



Problems before implementing PLANTA PPMS

Before implementing the new software there was no resource planning or controlling and this frequently resulted in resource conflicts, priority changes and dead times in projects while waiting for other inputs. New unplanned projects were passed on to the development department without knowing anything about the available capacity. Too many projects had to be processed simultaneously so that only reactive instead of proactive management was possible. Frequent date delays and cost overruns in development projects were the result.

Definition of goals

Through PLANTA PPMS, the following should have been improved as a first priority:

- Faster project lead times
- Less resource conflicts
- Planning of new project ideas
- Integration of project and resource planning

- Displaying the development processes in project plans
- Efficient portfolio and project management
- Project controlling for product development
- Ease of use and cost reduction regarding project planning, reporting and controlling

The evaluation process was structured in three phases: Information procurement based on internet research (44 different providers), software presentation on-site at R&M including an offer (5 providers), on-site software installation including training and a three-month testing phase (PLANTA PPMS and other providers).

In particular the PLANTA system convinced by its simple and clear operation as a result of the the role concept. The professional and customer-oriented support by PLANTA Switzerland—from the presentation through the installation and training in the evaluation phase to the offer—was extremely convincing as well.

Since March 1, 2010, R&M has been using PLANTA productively. The period from defining the problem to implementing the PLANTA system was 12 months in total.

Summary/benefit

Only two months after going live with PLANTA, great benefits from the software implementation have become apparent. Martin Maag, project manager from Reichle & De-Massari: *"Planning resources with PLANTA has worked out from the first month. After implementing the new system, 28 resource conflicts have been identified. They could be located exactly and resolved proactively for the first time. Management then reduced the number of projects to an acceptable amount. After just two months, there was only one resource conflict left to be resolved. The date situation in projects improved, dead times in projects disappeared completely. Today, new projects are controlled clearly and assigned to the respective development departments. External resources can be involved purposefully."*

The positive side effect shows in the objective discussion over the feasibility of projects. Portfolio planning provides the basis for prioritization and reduction in the number of projects.

Due to faster and easier creation of status reports, project controlling has been simplified and standardized.

Company Profile

PLANTA Projektmanagement-Systeme GmbH is one of the leading providers of enterprise project management software on the European market. PLANTA offers cross-industry software solutions for enterprise-wide project management.

Today, PLANTA software is used in the areas of IT, development and research as well as mechanical and plant engineering by around 50,000 people and with around 460 company licenses, primarily in Germany, Switzerland and other European countries (see inside back cover for reference customers).

Company-wide Project Management with PLANTA Software



PLANTA Project is the successor to the multi-project management system PPMS, which PLANTA has constantly developed since 1980.

Excerpt from List of Customers:



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