

EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT STANDARDS MANAGEMENT

The Hirschvogel Automotive Group, one of the world's largest automobile suppliers in the area of forging and machining, has set up a highly efficient document management system in which the SupplyOn Document Manager plays a central roll.

The Hirschvogel Automotive Group is one of the most important partners of the automobile industry. The company specializes in manufacturing and machining forged steel and aluminum parts that are produced in high volumes. "The complexity of our tasks has increased considerably over the last few years," said Bernd Osowski, who as acting construction director at Hirschvogel is responsible for the setup of the central document management system on behalf of the operating department. "Our clients continually source out more steps of the value creation chain to us, which requires optimized internal organization and efficient interface management."

Manager serving as standard tool for the automatic creation and updating of customer documents.

Noticeable Increase in Efficiency

The use of the SupplyOn Document Manager has greatly simplified the management of standards and specifications. This significantly alleviated the burden placed on the sales department, which was responsible for providing customer standards in the past. The standards office is also no longer required to actively seek updated customer standards but is now automatically informed of updates. "The use of the Document Manager is tied to a noticeable increase in efficiency for us and our customers," states Osowski. "Furthermore, automatic information about up-



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Bernd Osowski
Acting construction director of Hirschvogel Umformtechnik GmbH, Denklingen

To satisfy these demands, the management of order-dependent documents i.e. the procurement, administration and the continuous update of the customers' standards and specifications must be optimally organized. This is why Hirschvogel decided to set up a company-wide document management system – with the SupplyOn Document

dates and universal access to standards and specifications are the requirements for the setup of an integrated information management system."

The released standards are available as PDF documents, which enables seamless integration of the comprehensive document management system in a central document server. This is where all customer specifications and

SupplyOn Document Manager

The SupplyOn Document Manager forms the basis for a structured and standardized customer document management and simplifies updating relevant standards and specifications. Documents may be quickly and reliably browsed by issuer, file number or issue date with the comprehensive search function. The supplier is automatically notified by e-mail of changes and can view the updated document electronically. The SupplyOn Document Manager has become the de facto standard for electronic document exchange in the automobile industry and is even recommended by Germany's Trade Association for Metal Products and Related Industries (Fachverband Metallwaren- und verwandte Industrien e. V.).

standards are centrally stored. A sophisticated authentication system allows employees of the entire Hirschvogel Automotive Group to access this information.

In the future, the plant standards from the SupplyOn Document Manager will be held directly in the SAP internal document management system. Communications relating to standards, the origin of standards and related information can be attached to any document as a record. "In the mid-term, we will be able to implement a largely automated and highly transparent standard management system that ensures the utmost efficiency and quality in the entire process and that satisfies all requirements of an audit on transparency and integrity," comments Osowski.

Key to Success

The basis for successful implementation of the SupplyOn Document Manager

and internal standards management can be organized in a highly professional manner. "The timeliness and accuracy of the standards that are used are not only vital to auditing, they are also a requirement for saving time and money and for setting up processes in a transparent and reliable way," states Osowski.

Overall, the SupplyOn Document Manager is of the most value when the person using the standards and the standards provider work together as intensely as possible. "We have determined through conversations with our customers that we both face some very similar internal questions and together, we discussed solutions upon which SupplyOn is based," recounts Osowski. "Thus, it is an advantage if as many partners as possible use one standard that provides a common technological basis for document exchange and other inter-company processes."



About the Hirschvogel Automotive Group

As a technological leader in traditional drop forging, warm and cold forming, aluminum forging, as well as machining, the Hirschvogel Automotive Group has made a good name for itself in the automotive supplier branch. The headquarters of the family enterprise is in Denklingen near Landsberg am Lech (Bavaria). With more than 2,500 employees and turnover of more than 450 million Euros, the Hirschvogel Automotive Group ranks among the world's largest automotive suppliers in the area of forging and machining.

is an efficient internal organization. The Hirschvogel Automotive Group achieves this through the centralization of department-wide processes: a central standards office is responsible for the creation, updating and world-wide distribution of customer standards to the appropriate plants and departments. This ensures that both communication with the customer regarding standards

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