



REFERENCE REPORT

> CAPTRON
ELECTRONIC GMBH



DESIRE FOR FLEXIBLE BUSINESS SOFTWARE BECOMES REALITY

INDUSTRY

Electrical engineering/Electronics industry

PRODUCTS

Capacity sensors and sensor systems

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

170

LICENSES

53

USES ABAS SINCE

2018

LOCATIONS THAT USE ABAS

Germany, China

WEBSITE

www.captron.de

CAPTRON

ABAS ERP IMPROVES THE ENTIRE PROCESS CHAIN AT CAPTRON AND SUSTAINABLY INCREASES DELIVERY PERFORMANCE

From tinkering in the basement at home to the world market leader for capacity sensor buttons: CAPTRON Electronic GmbH has gone through a strong growth process in their 40-year company history. Starting with the development of fill-level sensors, the company based in Bavarian Olching, Germany, now has a broad portfolio of capacity and optical sensors as well as complete control systems for a wide variety of applications. Process consulting and software development services complement the technology portfolio. In addition to the location in Germany, CAPTRON is represented in China, North America, and Poland and has sales partners in over 20 countries worldwide. With the size of the company and the scope of the product range, the software requirements continue to increase year-over-year. Last but not least, because all products can be configured customer-specific and both sensors with a 10 x 10 mm touch surface and fill-level sensors up to 3 meters long can be mapped in the ERP system.



But CAPTRON set a course for future growth early on and in 2018 completed the change to a new business software solution. One goal is to replace the previous, isolated solutions with a highly integrated ERP system with a range of functions that optimally matches the company's core requirements. The focus is on material scheduling and the processes in procurement and production: Because of the many configurable products, it is particularly important to be able to display production lists and processes in detail and realistically in the ERP system. After all, it is not uncommon for CAPTRON to maintain multi-level BOMs and channel them through production with the help of sensible processes. Against this background, the company chose the ERP solution from abas Software GmbH.

SOLID EVALUATION RESULTS FROM THE ERP SYSTEM SUPPORT BUSINESS DECISIONS

It only took nine months from the start of the implementation project to the Go-Live of abas ERP. As with the software selection, the focus was initially on the processes related to production and thus on the optimization of the areas most relevant to the core business. CAPTRON then successively implemented further abas features, including, for example, costing, evaluation, and cost object and cost center accounting. Because the company sees significant added value in knowing where costs arise and for what in detail. This has recently proven to be particularly valuable, since business decisions can be made on the basis of specific evaluation results and figures from the ERP system. Today, the software is used in almost all areas and

is strongly integrated into company processes, from scheduling, production and logistics to financial accounting and controlling. The result has been advancements throughout the entire process chain, which is particularly reflected in their much improved delivery performance.

Since the implementation of abas ERP, CAPTRON has been able to take significant steps forward in production. In particular, comprehensive master files maintenance as well as the expansion and completion of their production lists have played a major role. In addition, the sensor specialist uses terminals for Plant Data Collection (PDC), which saves a lot of time and significantly reduces susceptibility to errors in the processes.



“By introducing abas ERP, we feel well prepared to meet current and future challenges. We have a software partner at our side whose solutions actively accompany us as we grow and provides the best possible support for our agility - today and with an eye on the future.”

Uli Kraus, IT Senior Manager



"At abas, flexibility is actually lived and it's been a great benefit to us!"

Uli Kraus, IT Senior Manager



ERP INTERFACES FOR AUTOMATED WAREHOUSING, PRODUCTION ROBOTS, AND MACHINES

In the area of warehouse management, CAPTRON relies on the abas Warehouse solution, which enables them to perform logistics processes such as data capture on a mobile, hand-held scanner. Furthermore, in the course of the project go live, the process for providing materials to production also underwent highly effective efficiency adjustments. Thanks to batch picking, employees can pick for several orders at the same time and thus benefit from route optimization in the warehouse. The oneGRID pick-by-light solution developed by CAPTRON itself also ensures optimization of the intralogistics processes, which supports manual, paperless picking with the help of smart buttons and is also offered to external customers. By digitizing its own material supply processes, CAPTRON has not only significantly increased its efficiency, but also created the foundation for the new CAPTRON Solutions division. With the smart intralogistics solution oneGRID, CAPTRON bridges the gap between ERP and logistics solutions and thus helps their customers maximize the efficiency and transparency of goods movements in the warehouse and production hall. In addition, the abas Connect integration platform links a shuttle and thus an automatic vertical warehouse system to abas ERP, which once again increases efficiency. CAPTRON also benefits from the targeted connection of third-party systems via abas Connect in other areas of the company. Some product lines are already automated with

robots, which, like the machines used for laser marking or electrode printing, retrieve information directly from abas ERP. In addition, CAPTRON works with testing machines they developed themselves, which check every sensor produced and are also connected to abas ERP. Other interfaces include a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution, shipping software, and time recording.

FLEXIBILITY IS A LIVED REALITY

abas ERP is characterized by a high degree of flexibility across all processes. "That's a buzzword that you regularly come across in the ERP selection process," says Uli Kraus, IT Senior Manager at CAPTRON, and continues: "But at abas, this flexibility is actually lived and it's been a great benefit to us!" This is particularly the case when processing customer-specific projects, which make up a large part of CAPTRON's business. After all, every project presents new challenges for the ERP system, which the company can always meet with agility thanks to the vast customization options.



ABAS IMPRESSES WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

Another aspect of abas Software GmbH that impressed CAPTRON is their international orientation - especially in China. The sensor specialist has had a sales office in Suzhou, around 80 kilometers west of Shanghai, China, since 2012 and has been relying on software support from the ERP provider from Karlsruhe, Germany, since 2019. There, abas ERP is used very close to the standard, while customizations such as product and BOM structures or multi-level production lists can be easily transferred from the local system.

TREMENDOUS ADDED VALUE THANKS TO CUSTOMER-ORIENTED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the ERP system itself, CAPTRON particularly appreciates the opportunity to exchange information with other abas users via the abas Product Advisory Board and to participate in the further development of the software based on their own practical experience. CAPTRON also no longer wants to do without the extensive online training options offered by abas, which cover every tool and topic in detail and answer any questions the employees may have.

THE COURSE FOR THE FUTURE HAS BEEN SET

In a next step, CAPTRON plans to switch to the newest version of the ERP system this year and is part of the pilot customer project for abas ERP 21. The company will then pursue a bi-annual update cycle to ensure that the software is always up-to-date and thus best prepared for future requirements. Furthermore, the company plans to continuously expand their machine connections in order to further maximize transparency and process reliability. The sensor manufacturers are also working on an abas Connect-based API interface for the oneGRID solution, so that the smart pick carts, automated storage systems, and abas ERP can communicate with each other in the future. "By introducing abas ERP, we feel well prepared to meet current and future challenges," summarizes Uli Kraus. "We have a software partner at our side whose solutions actively accompany us as we grow and provides the best possible support for our agility - today and with an eye on the future."



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