

REFERENCE REPORT

› **FAHRZEUGBAU
MEIER GMBH**



ON BEHALF OF THE RV MANUFACTURER: FAHRZEUGBAU MEIER RELIES ON ABAS FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF BUSINESS PROCESSES

INDUSTRY

Automotive industry

PRODUCTS

RV and chassis conversions

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

120

LICENSES

18

USES ABAS SINCE

2022

LOCATIONS THAT USE ABAS

Altdorf (D)

WEBSITE

www.fahrzeugbau-meier.de

Since its founding in 2001, Fahrzeugbau Meier GmbH – a specialist in RV and chassis conversions – has been characterized by strong growth. The company from Altdorf near Nuremberg, Germany, now prepares around 1,000 truck chassis per year for the construction of integrated luxury RVs and has advanced to become the German market leader in this segment of converting chassis over 5 tons. The midmarket family company reached an important milestone in 2003 with the invention of a now patented driver's platform elevation using a specially developed steel construction, which gives them a unique advantage in their competitive environment. Their business environment is characterized by a high level of complexity in the information chain, since type approval for RVs usually involves a three-stage process.





Fahrzeugbau Meier is in the middle between the base vehicle manufacturer on the first level and the RV manufacturer on the third level, which is why seamless documentation is required from order acceptance to delivery. Because at each stage of the value-added chain, a vehicle-specific CoC document (Certificate of Conformity) must be created, which contains all the approval-relevant features and ensures compliance with applicable norms. To do this, the chassis converter must read in the previous CoC data, adjust it in line with the conversions made and make them fully available to the RV manufacturer for vehicle completion. In addition, there is a large number of type approvals that have to be complied with, comparatively short product life cycles, and order-specific features that make digital support and automated workflows indispensable.

However, since their previous ERP system had reached its limits, Fahrzeugbau Meier is about to implement abas ERP. The software's wide range of functions and options for customization optimally cover the requirements of the company's core business.



"With abas ERP we'll have business software that cleanly networks and digitizes our production process from start to finish."

Marco Vacca, Commercial Manager ppa.

END-TO-END DIGITAL PROCESS CHAIN

After the successful launch of the project last summer, the ERP system is scheduled to go live in March 2022. abas ERP will be used in almost all areas of the company with the goal of creating an end-to-end digital process chain: from purchasing, materials management, and production to sales and accounts payable and receivable.

ERP INTEGRATION FROM PRODUCT CONFIGURATOR AND CAD SOFTWARE

For the chassis converter, production planning from abas ERP with its options for managing the chassis information and, in particular, the product configurator that is also available are among the decisive strengths of the abas solution. Because at Fahrzeugbau Meier almost no two chassis are the same, which makes the configuration much more difficult in light of the variety of available components, their respective compatibility, and the approval regulations (homologation). abas ERP is therefore setting the course for a fully networked, but at the same time manageable vehicle configurator, which will automatically create a reference to important background information on the basis of defined and priced assemblies, exclude non-conforming or unavailable options, and take on pricing as well as BOM and text generation.

All CoC-relevant data are recorded directly and the document is created fully automatically, while abas ERP also provides the necessary flexibility to



continuously adapt the conditions in the configurator to new standards and regulations as well as changes to the base vehicles. The heart of the entire process is a specially developed database object in which all information on the chassis that was adopted from the base vehicle manufacturer will be stored separately in the future: including, for example, the configurations, level 1 CoC data or image materials from the acceptance of the vehicle. These can then in turn be linked to a sales order, whereupon all conversions made and the new delivery status are automatically written back to the chassis and act as the basis for the creation of the level 2 CoC document. Thanks to programmed workflows, the handling of the processes is fully automated and efficient, as with other processes across the entire company.



"We are confident that with abas we have a partner at our side who makes us ready for the future - both with regard to our constant growth and the advancing digital world. And that despite all the complexity that our work in the RV industry entails every day."

Marco Vacca, Commercial Manager ppa.

CAD AND ERP WORKING HAND IN HAND

Prior to production, the company designs each vehicle virtually using Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software from SolidWorks. Newly created components, including all homologation-relevant data, are automatically transferred to abas ERP by the CAD software, so that both the time required for duplicate efforts and the susceptibility to errors are reduced to a minimum. This also applies to the processes in production, where from now on terminals for plant data collection (PDC) will be used and the digital abas Production Center will replace jobs that were previously processed in paper form.

DIGITIZE AND AUTOMATE PROCESSES

All of these measures help to continuously advance the digitalization and automation of processes. New production halls are also being built in this context and the processes there are being reorganized. Determining the average work step duration on the basis of the PDC data can make a valuable contribution to the establishing the most efficient structure possible. In addition, Fahrzeugbau Meier is pursuing the goal of paperless added value and is planning to use the document management system, abas DMS, as an integrated add-on. This will not only guarantee an audit-proof archiving of the documents for the right processes or master files, but also their decentralized availability.

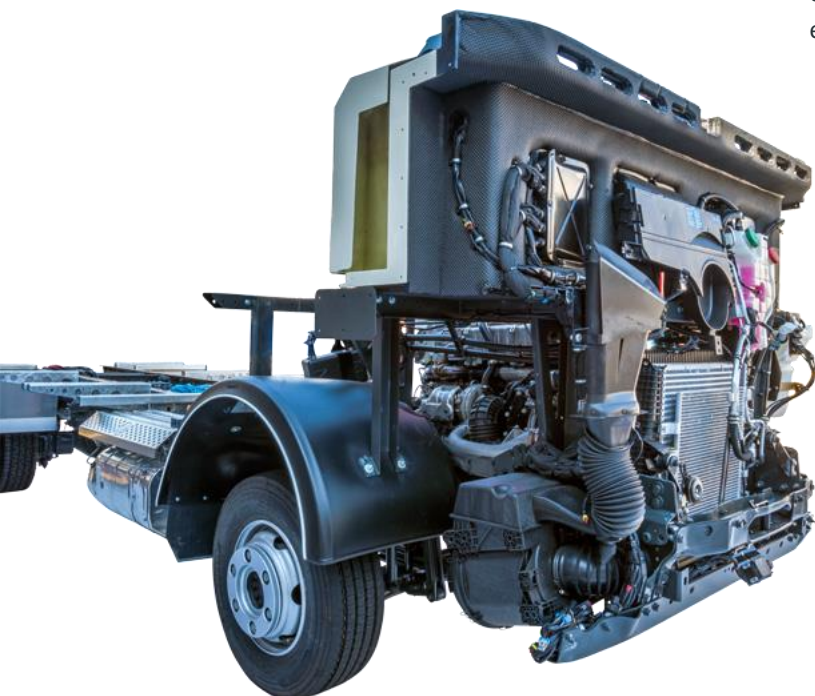


MOBILE SOLUTIONS

With the use of the mobile solution for warehouse management from abas, employees will be able to perform transfers and picking using a mobile scanner or receive their picking list via a QR code. The logistical side of order picking is also being redesigned, as the chassis conversion is not performed at a fixed production site, but the chassis pass through several stations throughout the production halls. Instead of gathering all the required material in one place, the order is broken down into individual parts and these are picked separately. This significantly increases efficiency, since all the materials required are always available at the right time and in the right place.

READY FOR THE FUTURE WITH ABAS ERP

Looking to the future, Fahrzeugbau Meier strives for a regular update cycle in order to always meet changing requirements with the necessary flexibility and the latest technical developments. In the midterm, the midmarket business plans to integrate payroll and fixed asset accounting in abas ERP and also to process lot management using the software solution. "With abas ERP we'll have business software that cleanly networks and digitizes our production process from start to finish", says Marco Vacca, Commercial Manager ppa. and overall project manager for the implementation of abas ERP. "We are confident that with abas we have a partner at our side who makes us ready for the future - both with regard to our constant growth and the advancing digital world. And that despite all the complexity that our work in the RV industry entails every day."





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