



SUCCESS STORY

› **RIPPLOH  
ELEKTROTECHNIK  
GMBH**



RIPPLOH ELEKTROTECHNIK GMBH

# EXPECTATIONS FOR INTEGRATION COMPETENCE EXCEEDED

## INDUSTRY

Electrical engineering/Electronics industry

## PRODUCTS

Control cabinet systems

## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

45

## LICENSES

25

## USES ABAS SINCE

2007

## LOCATIONS THAT USE ABAS

Ostbevern (Germany)

## WEBSITE

[www.ripploh.de](http://www.ripploh.de)

## ABAS ERP SEAMLESSLY CONNECTS THE PROCESS CHAIN AND WORKFLOW

By taking over a switchboard unit manufacturer in 1995, Andreas Ripploh laid the foundation for the success story of Ripploh Elektrotechnik GmbH. To date, the company from Ostbevern in the Münsterland, Germany, has developed into an established mid-market manufacturer with 45 employees that designs a wide variety of control cabinet systems, tailored to the individual requirements and operating standards of their clients.

It's not uncommon for a single control cabinet to consist of more than 1,000 different elements, while the company has to manage somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 purchased items. A consistently digital workflow is required to ensure that business processes run smoothly. However, the previous company software did not have the necessary adaptability to meet this requirement. In order to maintain special databases, costing, and parts lists with customer-specific product numbers, Ripploh had to use additional third-party systems and transfer the data every evening.





*"We've always wished for such a high level of integration, but didn't think it was possible. Thanks to abas ERP, it's now reality. The system holds our entire process chain and workflow together and allows them to be fused together."*

Andreas Ripploh,  
Managing Director

Because of the associated effort and the unnecessary risk of data inconsistency, the company decided to introduce a new ERP system in 2007. The decision was made to rely on the software solution from abas Software GmbH, headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany, which impressed them with its wide range of functions, high flexibility, and the possibility of customizing the system while maintaining release capability.

## ERP SUPPORT ALONG THE ENTIRE PROCESS CHAIN

Thanks to the proven "Global Implementation Method" abas GIM, which divides the implementation process of the business software into seven stages, the implementation was a success in just seven months. abas ERP has been in use in almost all company areas since 2007 and supports Ripploh along the entire process chain: from purchasing, production and sales to financial accounting and master files maintenance. All machines, including the CNC and cable assembly machines, are also fully integrated in abas ERP. It is thus possible to make files available to the machines directly from abas ERP and to release them via the outstanding orders. Furthermore, a consistent workflow can be implemented so that the work in prepara-

tion, mechanical pre-assembly, and cable assembly run in parallel and then the wiring process begins. The control cabinet manufacturer also benefits greatly from the interface to the EPLAN Electric P8 computer-aided engineering (CAE) software - which is used, among other things, for electrical engineering and the creation of circuit diagrams - as it ensures seamless consistency of the databases in both systems: Every new item is first created in abas ERP and then automatically transferred to the EPLAN SQL database with the associated product number. The approval processes in EPLAN can also be entirely controlled via the ERP system. "The introduction of abas ERP was a major milestone in the development of our company," says Andreas Ripploh, Managing Director of Ripploh Elektrotechnik GmbH. "We've always wished for such a high level of integration, but didn't think it was possible. Thanks to abas ERP, it's now reality. The system holds our entire process chain and workflow together and allows them to be fused together."



## FOCUS ON FURTHER AUTOMATION

Ripploh Elektrotechnik GmbH is clearly set on course for automation. This can already be seen in the process of preparing a quote, for which the company has developed its own online control cabinet configurator. With the help of predefined assemblies, customers can gradually piece together a custom control cabinet and order it directly after completion. In the next step, the order is transferred to abas ERP, where the BOM costing is performed based on the material data it contains. The client in turn receives a confirmation and a circuit diagram for final approval within 24 hours, so that the entire customer handling is combined into a complete workflow at this point. Not only can reaction and delivery times be reduced, but the additional work involved in creating a new quote is no longer necessary, when customer requirements change one or more times before the final order is placed. In addition, the control cabinet configurator gives the customer direct insight into what is possible according to the standards applicable in the respective country and, by specifying mandatory fields, ensures that all information required for the order is provided. Furthermore, Ripploh Elektrotechnik GmbH distinguishes itself through almost paperless production, in which physical documents, for example, order slips, are a thing of the past. Instead, employees have access to work orders and circuit diagrams via tablets and can also use these to issue approvals. This increases both flexibility and speed, but also offers advantages in terms of security, as the data are no longer accessible as soon as the mobile device is removed from the company network.

## READY FOR THE FUTURE WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRATION

abas container management was also implemented last year, with which the materials required for a pending work order can be pre-picked in a previously defined container. This enables the company to handle order changes better and avoid the transfer costs for a work order that's already been recorded and the goods picked for it. Next, Ripploh would like to tackle the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) project in order to simplify the flow of information and data exchange with vendors. A release change to the new version of abas ERP is planned for the coming year, while the company also wants to push workflow and process automation further and, in this context, also want to dedicate themselves to graphical workflow modeling. "Our decision in favor of abas ERP was the right one," summarizes Andreas Ripploh. "We are envied by many for the range of functions and the high level of integration and we no longer want to do without the support of the software."



abas Software GmbH  
Gartenstraße 67  
76135 Karlsruhe  
Germany  
info@abas-erp.com  
abas-erp.com

abas ERP 

@abasERP 

abasERP 