

VDM Metals

In the past, VDM Metals and B&C have worked together successfully in a project improving NWC and delivery times.

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In a new project at VDM Metals, B&C now uses new simulation tools to realize additional potentials.

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B&C will hold a presentation at the working group "Production Steering" on the topic "Tension fields between the units 'Sales' and 'Supply Chain Management'".

Info: gdb-info.de

PLANNING DETERMINES COMPANY SUCCESS!

But: How is the quality of planning systems optimized? The digitization and the growing integration (horizontal and vertical) of value chains, as well as rapidly changing customer requirements, increase the complexity of the production planning and controlling systems.

Planning systems are the heart of order management and capacity planning and today mostly work in semi or fully automatic frameworks. They lay the foundation for the company's ability to supply and for delivery performance, inventory (Net Working Capital), capacity utilization and production costs. This results in growing challenges for planning departments to generate "good" plans.

B&C has repeatedly discovered that many companies do not fully exploit the benefits of integrated planning systems and that the planning system often is only used as a "typewriter". Thus, potential remains unexploited. As a result, questions like "Is my plan good?" or "How good could my plan be?" can be very difficult to answer; if they can be answered at all. Often it is hardly possible to understand the functioning and results of the planning system and the underlying algorithms.

Even worse, determining the plans' accuracy towards the given corporate objectives is not possible. As a consequence planners are often satisfied with the fact that "a" plan has been created at all.

The B&C tool APS CONTROL offers the option of downsizing complex planning problems into comprehensible and interpretable sub-problems, define expected results ("how should the planning system react?") and automate verification of the planning systems results. APS CONTROL in fact checks the expected results against the actual results of planning runs and provides information on whether the system is reacting to planning problems properly and given objectives are addressed. Finally, the planner will have a foundation to decide if the generated plan can be qualitatively accepted.

APS CONTROL can be used not only for the optimization of current sys-

tems, but also for quality assurance in implementation projects of planning tools. By archiving planning problems and test results, they can be reproduced automatically as often as needed to continuously control and adjust the planning system. Usage examples are the integration of new functionalities or the shift of planning objectives.

The automated and integrated approach not only saves time and money;



it also ensures the quality and performance of the planning system and ultimately the company's success.

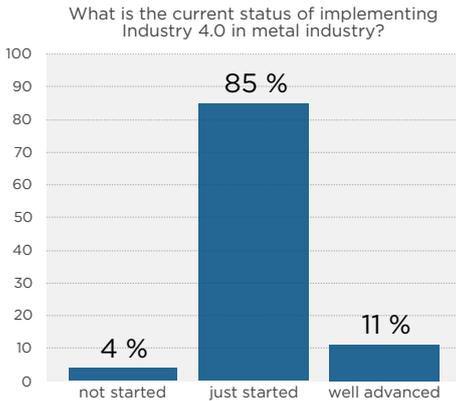
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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION GAINS GROUND QUICKLY

But: What happens in the metal industry? Not too much one would think looking at the results of the study conducted by B&C in 2016 for the industry forum “Metal meets Industry 4.0”.

There is a consensus among surveyed companies that something should be done and that Industry 4.0 is highly



relevant, but solutions are still vague. And the situation today hasn't changed: a few Industry 4.0 projects have been launched but they often lack clear objectives and specific ap-

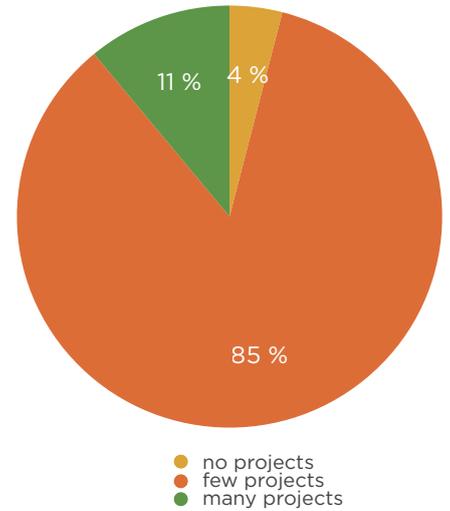
proaches. The challenge is to work out in which areas Industry 4.0 can help to gain cost advantages and increase customer value.

The expectations to gain value through integrated networks are high. Process automation can accelerate the information flow between suppliers, producers, and customers in an unprecedented manner. This upgrade of information logistics can create transparency throughout the supply chain and improve the flexibility of all business processes dramatically.

Agile planning and control processes are “playmakers” generating profit from new possibilities e.g. improved delivery performance and optimized resource utilization.

The B&C consultants already work intensively on those issues for quite a long time, developing tailor-made analysis and optimization tools for the industry. One example is the analytics tool SCM CONTROL™ which allows B&C to analyze complex value

How many Industry 4.0 projects have been already started in your company?



chains in depth and adjust planning strategies to changing business models. Thus, value chains in fast changing markets will be maneuverable, dynamic and competitive.

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B&C provides support for GMH GmbH in their transformation project “Zukunft Hütte” to reach GMH’s objective to stay “always better”. Throughout the entire value chain “starting from optimized supply of scrap to flexible reactions to changes in market demand”, processes and the structural organization will be trimmed to efficiency. B&C uses their own metal industry specific simulation and analysis tools to enhance project progress.

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IMS Germany and B&C are working to optimize stock levels in their network with the focus: “The right product at the right time at the right place”.

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