

Press release

Supplier innovates production control with machine integration platform

Alps Alpine meets automotive manufacturers' quality requirements with MOM from iTAC

Montabaur, March 19, 2025 – The automotive industry is facing structural and technological changes as well as economic challenges. Media reports are increasingly reporting on recalls, and, in response, leading automotive manufacturers are launching quality control initiatives with their suppliers. Precise production control is essential. Alps Alpine is positioning itself for the future by implementing the MES/MOM solution from iTAC Software AG. A key component is the machine integration platform iTAC.SMT.Edge, which is used to collect, link and analyze data.

With the increasing demands in the automotive industry, particularly in the areas of quality control and production management, suppliers need to rethink. The automotive supplier Alps Alpine therefore replaced its previously implemented solution, which was designed for basic traceability with process interlocking. “We lacked quick access to all relevant manufacturing data. To meet the increasing expectations of OEMs, we needed to find a solution that would provide a holistic overview and instant data availability, so that we could respond immediately to process and quality issues,” explains Ákos Varga, Senior Manager at Alps Alpine.

iTAC Software AG
Aubachstr. 24
56410 Montabaur
Germany

Tel.: +49 2602-1065-0
Fax: +49 2602-1065-30
info@itacsoftware.com
www.itacsoftware.com

The iTAC.MOM.Suite closes this information gap. It is a comprehensive manufacturing management system that covers all requirements, including production and quality management, traceability and real-time control of production processes. A total of 1,700 devices are now connected to the solution at Alps Alpine – from SMT to final assembly.

Connecting machines and systems from different manufacturers

A core element of the new solution is the iTAC.SMT.Edge. In SMT production, there are machines and systems from different manufacturers and of different ages that use different communication methods. This makes data transfer and analysis more difficult.

iTAC.SMT.Edge makes it possible to connect machines and systems from different manufacturers in a bidirectional network. The data is consolidated on the shop floor by means of an edge solution-based machine integration platform and distributed to the higher-level company systems, such as the MES, via a direct interface.

Edge technology provides a simple way to collect, link and analyze data from all SMT machines in real time. This means that important key figures such as cycle times and productivity can be compared not only within a plant, but also across several locations.

Alps Alpine started out by using the iTAC.SMT.Edge at its plant in Hungary. After successful testing, the solution was rolled out to other locations such as Mexico, China and Japan.

Immediately identify errors using real-time data

iTAC.SMT.Edge enables a high level of data availability, among other things. Alps Alpine particularly appreciates the availability of real-time data, which significantly improves the traceability of parts and components within the company. “With the previous system, tracking data was very difficult and time-consuming. Now we have instant access to all the information we need,” states Ákos Varga. This considerably simplifies and speeds up the internal troubleshooting process.

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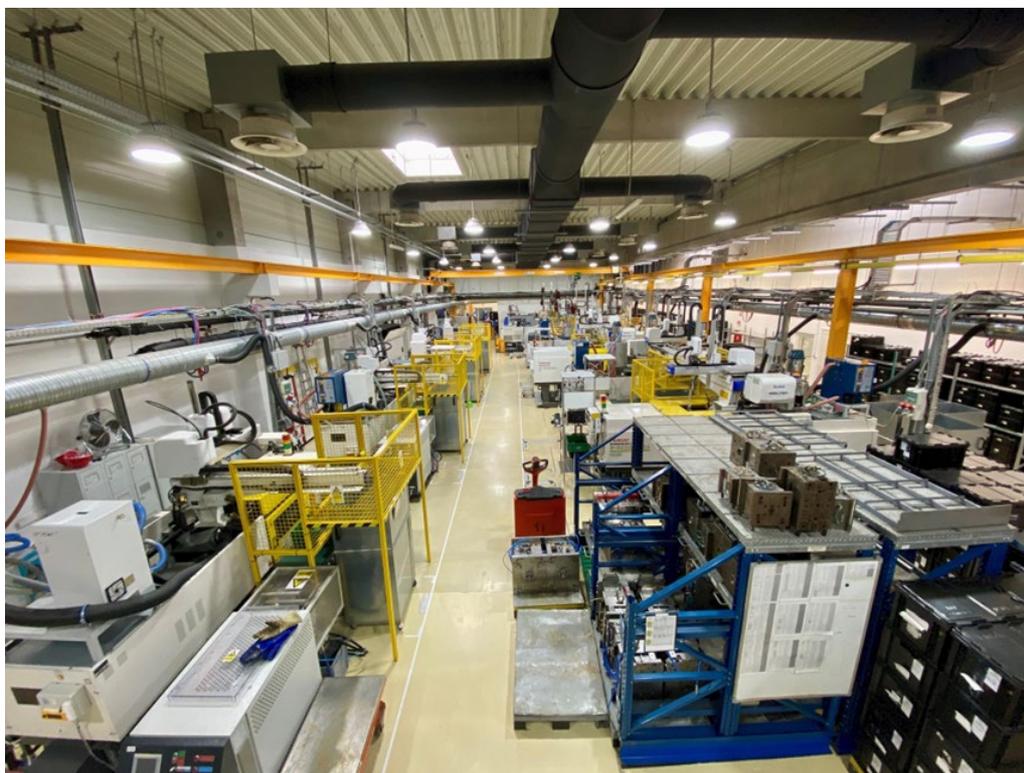
This form of traceability is equally important for OEMs. “In the event of complaints, the affected component must be found as quickly as possible – regardless of whether it is still in the warehouse or has already been installed in a vehicle. Thanks to the iTAC solution, the time needed for such investigations has been significantly reduced. What used to take days can now be determined in a few minutes,” says Ákos Varga.

Outlook: further automation and predictions

Alps Alpine has laid the foundation for future automation with the iTAC.MES.Suite and the iTAC.SMT.Edge solution. Planned expansions in the areas of data analytics, predictive maintenance and anomaly detection show that automation is becoming increasingly important in order to overcome the shortage of skilled workers and to make production processes more resilient and efficient. “We are striving for a production system in which machines independently detect problems and provide early warnings of failures. Further development towards more automated production ensures long-term competitiveness in the company,” explains Ákos Varga.

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Shopfloor at Alps Alpine
Image source: Alps Alpine

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About iTAC

iTAC Software AG, an independent company of the mechanical and plant engineering firm Dürr, provides internet-enabled information and communication technologies for the manufacturing industry. Founded in 1998, the company is one of the leading MES/MOM providers. The iTAC.MOM.Suite is a holistic Manufacturing Operations Management that is used worldwide by companies in different industry sectors such as automotive, electronics/EMS, telecommunication, medical engineering, metal casting and energy. Additional services and solutions for implementing IIoT and Industry 4.0 requirements complete the portfolio. iTAC Software AG is headquartered in Montabaur, Germany and has offices in the USA, Mexico, China and Japan and has a worldwide partner network for sales and service. iTAC's philosophy is to connect people, data and systems.

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with particular expertise in the technology fields of automation, digitalization, and energy efficiency. Its products, systems, and services enable highly efficient and sustainable manufacturing processes – mainly in the automotive industry and for producers of furniture and timber houses, but also in sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, medical devices, electrical engineering, and battery production. In 2023, the company generated sales of €4.6 billion. The Dürr Group has around 20,000 employees and 141 business locations in 33 countries. As of January 1, 2025, the former divisions Paint and Final Assembly Systems and Application Technology were merged to form the new Automotive division. Since then, the Dürr Group has been operating in the market with four divisions.

Contact

iTAC Software AG

Alina Leber

Inbound Marketing

Tel.: +49 2602 1065 211

Fax: +49 2602 1065 30

alina.leber@itacsoftware.com

punctum pr-agentur GmbH

Ulrike Peter

Tel. +49 211 9717977-0

pr@punctum-pr.de

iTAC Software AG
Aubachstr. 24
56410 Montabaur
Germany

Tel.: +49 2602-1065-0
Fax: +49 2602-1065-30
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