



CASE STUDY

BMZ Group increases supply chain transparency and management

Microsoft Dynamics 365 provides a global uniform platform

As businesses across industries look to become more “green,” we’re seeing new innovations in energy and the rise of the electric economy. And batteries are playing a greater role. From vacuum cleaners and patient monitors to garden tools and computer chargers, BMZ Group’s battery systems are fueling the products that keep our lives charged. But to keep up with the increasing demand, BMZ Group needed to revamp its production planning processes.

Situation

Unintegrated ERP systems slow down production

The BMZ Group is a leading manufacturer of high-tech battery systems headquartered in Germany with locations in the US, France, Poland, China and Japan. Following rapid growth, the company accumulated several disconnected legacy systems that were only partially supported by IT. Because it relied on spreadsheets and other manual tools, media breaks and double entries would interrupt operations. This limited visibility of the materials and capacities available on the factory floor made it challenging to keep production moving.

As a manufacturer in a world of perpetual change, BMZ Group wanted to harmonize its processes and systems to improve production planning and maintain optimal stock levels so customers could get the battery systems they need, when they need it. With a centralized ERP platform and fully integrated product lifecycle management system, employees would have the data needed to improve the quality, transparency and speed of BMZ Group’s business and continuously keep up with customer demand and satisfaction.

Solution

ERP processes harmonized with Microsoft Dynamics 365

One of BMZ Group’s facilities found early success using the Microsoft Dynamics AX platform, so the company decided to implement [Microsoft Dynamics 365](#) for Finance and Operations as its strategic software in all locations. It chose to partner with Avanade because of our global presence and experience as a leading manufacturing systems integrator in Germany.

Using Avanade Intelligent Enterprise Solutions (AIES), we supported BMZ Group with a complete ERP implementation, deploying engineering, sales order, warehousing, purchasing, production (Discrete and Kanban) and project management modules. Nearly 100% of the new end-to-end processes and functionality came right out of the box. “With AIES, the implementation and data migration were completed quickly and under budget, demonstrating the success and quality of our partnership with Avanade,” said BMZ Group’s chief financial officer.

Other features include a specialized production preparation garage, giving employees a simplified and intuitive way to control logistics and production work directly from the Dynamics 365 platform. They can now quickly prepare or replan the production flows in a seamless way, depending on customer demands.

BlueStar PLM, a Dynamics 365 ISV solution, was also implemented to handle engineering change management and product data management across the company. This solution supports product innovation and development processes, which are crucial to BMZ Group's growth. Lasernet by Formpipe, another ISV solution, offers the company document management without the need for programming and supports large printing outputs.

Results

Increased transparency speeds material flow and production planning

By combining emerging and connected technologies to digitally transform its business – known as Industry X.0 – BMZ Group is transforming the employee and customer experience and unlocking new revenue streams. Employees are released from legacy siloes, systems and processes and can rethink how to do business to best position the company for the future.

For example, since BMZ Group's factory floors have limited space to store stock, the new ERP system gives managers quick insight to what they need, when they need it, so production processes can shift when those materials are ready. "The Dynamics 365 system gives us transparency in stock, orders and financials, which was missing with the old systems," said the ERP manager at BMZ Group. "Additionally, Dynamics 365 has the flexibility to change processes depending on new business requirements."

Using the platform's Kanban functionality, mobility and Power BI reporting, BMZ Group is also realizing:

- More consistent material planning and improved product quality
- Increased transparency to help solve issues in material flow and production resource planning
- Delivery reliability, which improves customer service experiences
- Greater flexibility to adapt processes and structures

The company now knows what transactions take place in its warehouses and production plants and can enhance power to its supply chain, ensuring the company can scale to meet the growing demand for its products.

About BMZ Group

The BMZ Group is a global leader in developing and producing lithium-ion batteries and serves as a one-stop-shop manufacturing battery products ranging from single cell batteries to modular and standardized high-voltage large-scale batteries (called big packs) for many different markets. The BMZ Group is headquartered in Karlstein/Main and maintains branch offices in the USA, Poland, France, Japan and China. It was founded 25 years ago by principal shareholder and CEO Sven Bauer.

3,000 employees worldwide work with a development team to produce high-tech battery systems for the international market for automotive, e-mobility, energy storage, medical and industrial applications as well as power tools and garden tools installed worldwide in a broad variety of products by major brands. The company's products range from batteries for electric vehicles and e-bikes, energy storage systems, and portable medical equipment to electric hedge clippers, drills and cordless screwdrivers. BMZ Group has ramped up its production of medical equipment in response to the current situation. Li-ion batteries for ventilators are in high demand, and the BMZ Group will do everything in its power to meet the demand.



About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help make a human impact on our clients, their customers and their employees. We are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Avanade has 38,000 professionals in 25 countries, bringing clients our best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com

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North America
Seattle
Phone +1 206 239 5600
America@avanade.com

South America
Sao Paulo
AvanadeBrasil@avanade.com

Africa
Pretoria
Phone +27 12 622 4400
SouthAfrica@avanade.com

Asia-Pacific
Australia
Phone +61 2 9005 5900
AsiaPac@avanade.com

Europe
London
Phone +44 0 20 7025 1000
Europe@avanade.com