



Making better production schedules in less time

Algist Bruggeman produces several kinds of yeast among which baker's yeast for both traditional and industrial bakeries. With an annual turnover of over € 50 millions, the dynamic and high-tech company employs 180 people in the Gent Canal area in Belgium.

YEAST PRODUCTION PROCESS

The yeast is produced in fresh, liquid or dry form. In a laboratory small quantities of mother yeast are produced forming the basis for the production of the actual baker's yeast.

The mother yeast is introduced into fermenters. These are large tanks in which nutrients and sugar (in the form of molasses) are being added along with huge amounts of sterile air. After several generations of fermentation the yeast is fully grown and the end product is centrifuged in order to separate the yeast from the remainders of molasses. The so called yeast cream is quickly cooled down and stored in refrigerated tanks.

"We spend less time making better plans – and it gives us better productivity, general overview and ability to react dynamically based on informed decisions."

Filip Van Lerberge,
Production Planner

The yeast cream is finally processed and shipped as liquid yeast, fresh block yeast or dry yeast.

THE SCHEDULING CHALLENGE

Algist Bruggeman used spreadsheets to make the production planning which was time consuming, erroneous and maintained a closed world around the specialists doing it. A new solution was sought.

The challenges for the production

planners are manifold. Basically the job is to plan which product is in which tank at any given time. The schedule objective is to ensure enough processing and storage capacity is available to meet the customers demand for end products. Meanwhile demands may change, ongoing processes act unexpectedly, batches are quarantined by internal quality assurance and cleaning operations have to be scheduled in between production orders.

The production planners constantly need to update the schedule where the long term plans for mother yeast are converted into commercial products meeting specific customer demands of different products, quantities and delivery times. The recursive nature of the production process, where batch can be split up into new batches for three times in a row, makes this task very complex.

With more than 50 different end products with different recipes, several fermentation tanks, more than 30 storage tanks, limitations on the lifetime of products and promised deliveries to customers - this is quite challenging.



SOLUTION

Algist Bruggeman selected ROB-EX™ from Novotek as the APS (Advanced Production Scheduling) solution for their future production scheduling since it contained all the basic planning features and at the same time could be configured for their own special requirements. Also Novotek was able to develop customer specific functionality on top of the standard version.

The solution integrates with the ERP system Lisa, supports multiple planners working online and concurrent in the same schedule and includes a material module for simulating all products and material stock levels including planned transactions on inventory such as consumption, production and shipments.

The starting point for a scheduling session is currently the demand coming from Algist Bruggeman's ERP system in the form of planned shipments. The scheduling approach is to generate production orders balancing out these demands and at the same time respecting the equipment capacity and material constraints.

RESULTS

Algist Bruggeman has increased the productivity by 7% generating better schedules that make better use of the plant capacity. And it is remarkable that these improvements are made spending less time on planning than before. Filip Van Lerberge, produc-

tion planner at Algist Bruggeman, is very pleased working with ROB-EX™: "I finish the planning in half the time compared to earlier - even if the planning is more complex. Also I know that the finished plan is valid and has no errors in it. At the same time it is less tiring doing the schedule, because ROB-EX™ makes it easier to handle all the planning constraints and I can now entirely focus on making the best schedule."

The schedule is now shared between many users and always updated online. Different departments such as production and laboratory now use the same scheduling solution. The employees find it easy to use ROB-EX™ because of the visualization of all the information they need. This also has resulted in scheduling of cleaning operations being delegated to the operators since the schedule clearly shows the possibilities and makes it easy to moderate. Furthermore, a better insight is obtained in terms of long term scheduling of the mother yeast.

All in all the process of production scheduling as well as the production schedule itself has been improved by Algist Bruggeman using ROB-EX™ Gantt.

FACTS

COMPANY

Algist Bruggeman,
Gent, Belgium

SOLUTIONS

Production Management
Production Scheduling

PRODUCTS

ROB-EX™ Gantt

BENEFITS

- ∴ 50 % faster scheduling
- ∴ No errors in schedule
- ∴ 7 % increased productivity
- ∴ On-line scheduling information
- ∴ Improves cooperation between departments
- ∴ Delegation to local departments
- ∴ Better long term scheduling



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NOVOTEK  Improving your performance

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