Infor M3 for Atlas Copco

Facts at a glance

› Infor M3
› Engineering and rock drilling equipment
› South Africa

"With the Infor M3 software, Atlas Copco functions as one unit, across the globe. A truly agile supply chain, enables us to identify the best solution to a client’s need in an instant – and give them the best cost, by using the most efficient manufacturing plant in the best location. For this reason, it is a pleasure to work with the Infor M3 system." - Timothy Morgan, Business Controller, Atlas Copco Secoroc

Atlas Copco

Atlas Copco South Africa (Pty) Ltd manufactures industrial rock-drilling equipment and machinery for construction and mining, as well as industrial machinery and tools for the automotive industry.

The company services and leases equipment such as; compressors, vacuum solutions, air treatment systems, portable energy and mining equipment, power tools and assembly systems, to customers across Southern Africa.

It runs various ERP systems across its divisions, both internationally and at group level.

Atlas Copco Secoroc, a division of Atlas Copco South Africa first implemented an earlier version of Infor M3 in the late 1990s and has recently upgraded to the latest version, with one central server in Sweden and one global chart of accounts.
Challenges

Before the latest Infor M3 upgrade, Atlas Copco had separate systems for order entry and manufacturing, and operated according to spreadsheet planning.

The original installation of Infor M3 had 50 modifications, and this level of customisation made it difficult to upgrade the software.

In order to support the company’s global agility strategy, the solution had to empower Atlas Copco to deliver more efficiently, while improving its revenue performance.

Benefits

The recent upgrade to the latest version of Infor M3 eliminated all previous customisations, paving the way to streamline and enhance future upgrades.

- Atlas Copco Secoroc, a division of Atlas Copco South Africa is now better integrated with the rest of the group globally.
- Infor M3 helped shorten lead times and maximise available-to-promise visibility. On-hand stock is now visible around the world, enabling the company to optimise inventory and avoid obsolescence.
- The information made available by the Infor M3 software has also resulted in lower scrap rates, and improved financial management.
- Action messages in Infor M3 help the team to respond to production issues timeously, with no delays.
- The Infor M3 upgrade has improved the management of sub-contractors, as the result of reduced lead times and shorter administration cycle times.
- The electronic order entry capability has improved customer order entry experience. Once the customer order is confirmed, the integrated collaboration tool in M3 considers lead times and draws in components from where they can be most efficiently manufactured, on time, in any of the 52 production plants around the world in the Mining & Rock Excavation division.

Lean Manufacturing Focus

Atlas Copco is committed to continuous improvement and lean manufacturing principles, holding regular kaizen events in the plant to improve production processes and reduce manufacturing steps. In fact, a recent kaizen exercise on the continuous flow line increased capacity by 18%.

Infor M3 supports capacity planning. The Atlas Copco team can easily update M3 with the revised processes, making improvements in capacity visible to the rest of the group around the world. This ensures that its global manufacturing capacity is ever-improving and increasingly dynamic.

Future

Overall, Infor M3 has supported Atlas Copco in its strategy to evolve into a tightly integrated, global organisation with the agility to respond rapidly to specific customer demands anytime, anywhere.

In the future, Atlas Copco Secoroc will consider using M3 for rough cut capacity planning, to simulate lead and throughput times, while pinpointing raw material requirements.

As with other Atlas Copco sites, the Secoroc plant in South Africa plans to use M3 functionality to enable proactive plant maintenance.

"Integrated financial management and unified reporting in Infor M3 means we don’t drop the ball."
Timothy Morgan, Business Controller, Atlas Copco Secoroc