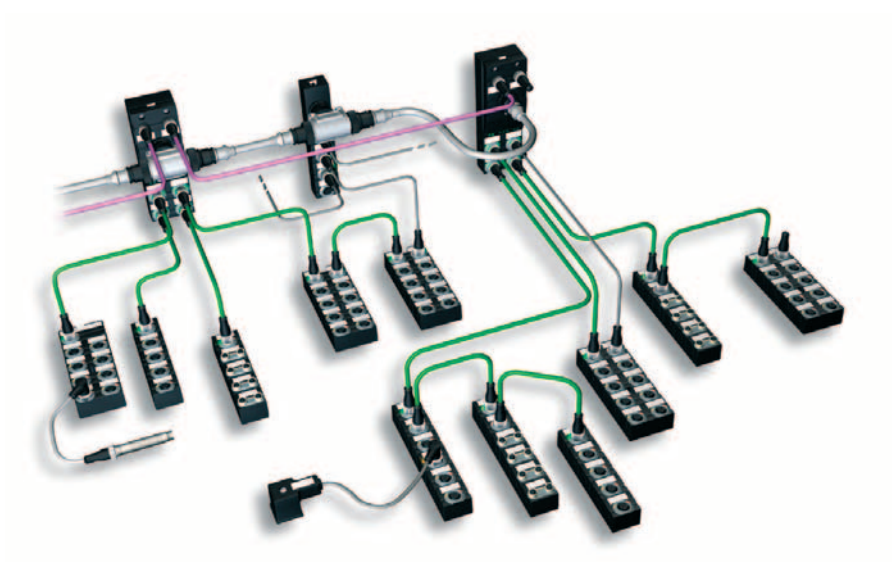


Murrelektronik – A powerful force with SAP and DB2.



Overview

■ The Challenge

*Removal of legacy system,
implementation of an integrated
enterprise resource planning
solution also suitable for
e-business*

■ The Solution

mySAP.com on IBM @server®

Hardware:

IBM RS/6000® SP

Software:

IBM DB2® Universal Database;

Tivoli®

■ The Benefit

*Shorter lead times; improved
inventory control; increased
customer satisfaction thanks to
on-time delivery performance;
optimised planning and control
in all areas of the company;
internationalisation*



Big Bang on New Year's Eve. The big date was the 1st January 2002. A new application system went into production at Murrelektronik just at the time of the changeover to the Euro. "Our SAP solution has provided us with something we had been waiting for a long time: a clearly structured, fully integrated application landscape providing the option to move quickly into new projects such as e-business, CRM, business information warehouse or electronic archiving", said Günter Jürgens. "Previously", according to the Head of Administration and IT, "our systems were such that we could barely meet our users' wishes before new requests were received." Not surprising if you take a look at the progress of this group of companies.

Founded in 1975 in Oppenweiler, Germany (on the River Murr) as a one-man band, Murrelektronik today is represented both in Germany and abroad with more than 40 sales offices, employs over 1,000 staff worldwide and is a leading company in the field of industrial electrical engineering and electronics, both at home and abroad. The firm's main focus is on product and system solutions for machine, plant and control construction. When it comes to interference-suppression technology and fieldbus systems within automation engineering, Murrelektronik

is one of the world's top companies. In Germany the company is divided into several plants and sales offices. Last year, a staff of 650 produced a turnover of around 65 million Euros.

Integrated perspective: mySAP.com

Despite numerous modifications, the old system which had been in operation for over ten years had not been able to keep pace with the latest demands. Günter Jürgens: "We needed a new solution; a system for cross-company processing which also had to be suitable for Internet business. Isolated solutions were simply not an option. We wanted to improve the inventory control, the lead times and the on-time delivery performance. After all, we've got our hands full with almost 15,000 items, around 15,000 customers, some 500 orders per day, a 24-hour delivery service for A items and a combination of different manufacturing processes from series production through to manufacturing to order."



It soon became clear: "Introducing the SAP system was the right way to go for us" according to Jürgens. Sales, logistics, production planning and control, plant and financial accounting, controlling and human resources management – the entire range of enterprise resource planning (ERP) is covered by the comprehensive

application package. All data and information is available on the central database for optimising business processes. Günter Jürgens: "We were impressed by the system's integrative approach and the outlook for future e-business using mySAP.com."

The ideal partner: Plaut Systems & Solutions

A partner for these ambitious introduction plans was quickly found: Plaut Systems & Solutions GmbH. The company is headquartered in Ismaning/Munich and has branches in Cologne, Hamburg, Stuttgart and Walldorf and is part of the internationally active Plaut Consulting Group. As an SAP system house, it possesses a wealth of extensive experience in realising SAP systems in medium-sized firms. Over 800 successfully completed projects in this area provide the evidence of this. The range of services covers full support, from design advice, implementation support and training through to technical support and systems maintenance.

That the Plaut consultants were more than able to adjust to the needs of a medium-sized company also proved to be the case with Murrelektronik. Günter Jürgens: "The presentation for their implementation plan was exceptional. The process was clearly structured, with definite deadline and cost specifications – this satisfied the company management and everyone else involved." It soon became clear that the plans were appropriate and realistic: At the beginning of 2001 the consultants started collaboration with the relevant departments to model the individual applications. This was followed by customising and lastly a test phase of barely four months, along with training for the key users who then passed on their knowledge to their colleagues. "Everything proceeded

on schedule, and all the cost estimates were observed", commented a satisfied Jürgens. The success of the project was ultimately also linked to the excellent organisation. This was dealt with by a steering committee comprising management, IT managers, heads of department and consultants providing continuous control and checking of the progress of the project.

Power base:

DB2 on AIX®

From a hardware point of view, the project had a strong foundation. Murrelektronik had always used a central computer to which the locations within Germany were connected via leased line. With the move to UNIX® some years ago (the old operating system was no longer 'up-to-date'), the decision was made to go with IBM and AIX, namely an IBM RS/6000 SP. The simultaneous use of multiple processor nodes and the 64 bit capability provided the ideal platform for mission critical applications such as SAP.

Today the IBM RS/6000 SP at Murrelektronik encompasses four nodes: a production server, an application server, a database server and a test server. Data storage is on twelve IBM SSA disk systems, each 36 gigabytes in size (1:1 mapping). For data backup using the Tivoli software, a SAN gateway to an IBM 3575 tape system 300 metres away is used. "Using an IBM RS/6000 SP may seem a little unusual for medium-sized companies like us", suggested Jürgens, "but we are delighted. Optimum scalability, simple control of all servers via a single workstation, no system downtime – that's the kind of IT everyone wants."

Security and performance with DB2

Security, performance, availability and simple administration – according to Jürgens that's exactly what the IBM DB2 Universal Database also delivers:

"Maximum availability of the database which is used as the central database for our SAP system is of critical importance to us as an international operation."

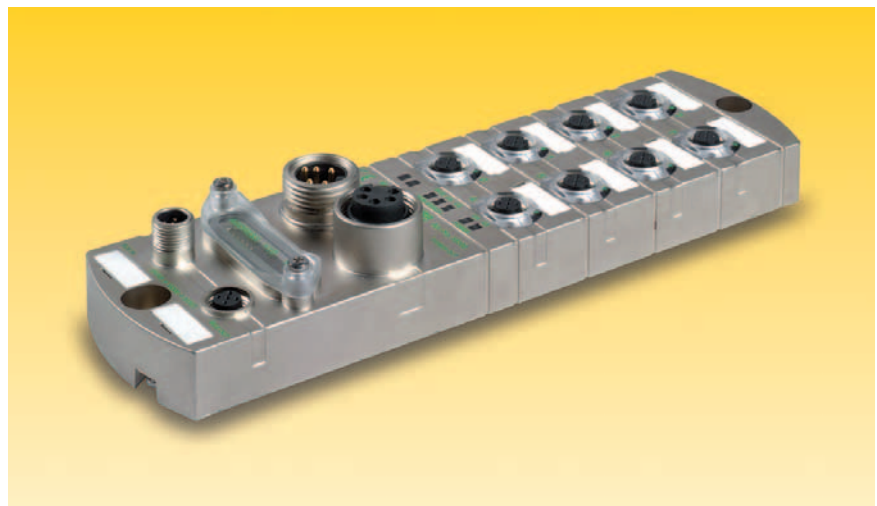
"As both Plaut and SAP use DB2 for internal operations, we were pleased to be able to exploit their positive experiences", stated Jürgens. Another important advantage: DB2 provides the ideal foundation on which to build the future business information warehouse (SAP BW). DB2 is the only parallel database approved by SAP for SAP BW; its parallel nature translates into fast response times in SAP Reporting, and that's something that pleases every user.

The success story continues

Murrelektronik is happy with all the progress made so far. Improved future-proofing, assurance of on-time delivery performance, meaningful controlling, communication with field workers – the recency and integrity of

the data have increased considerably. An especially gratifying add-on was the integration of the fully automated small parts warehouse into the system, carried out by Plaut. From a stock order to transport system control – everything now runs automatically, including the stock container being displayed on the picker's screen.

Following the current consolidation phase, in which around 300 named users will intensively familiarise themselves with the finer details of the SAP system, new projects will be taken on: Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and electronic archiving will be the most important projects initially. Günter Jürgens is convinced that these projects will proceed just as smoothly as the SAP implementation: "After all, the big bang worked out very well. On the very first evening we were already able to generate 750 delivery notes."





© Copyright IBM Corporation 2002
All rights reserved.

IBM Deutschland GmbH
D-70548 Stuttgart
ibm.com/de

The IBM home page can be found at:
ibm.com

IBM, the IBM logo, the e logo, AIX, pSeries, Tivoli, DB2 and RS/6000 are trademarks or registered trademarks of IBM Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

UNIX is a registered trademark in The Open Group in the United States and other countries.

SAP, mySAP.com, mySAP, R/2 and R/3 are registered trademarks of SAP AG.

Other company, product, and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.

This case study illustrates how one IBM customer uses IBM and/or Business Partner technologies/services. Many factors have contributed to the results and benefits described. IBM does not guarantee comparable results. All information contained herein was provided by the featured customer and/or Business Partner. IBM does not attest to its accuracy.