IFS

FNSS defense systems are more agile and competitive with IFS

The long-standing collaboration between FNSS and IFS has been a success for many years. IFS can be integrated with any system end to end and provides a platform where FNSS can easily develop desired applications when needed. IFS plays an important role in the efficiency of FNSS today, is used in all critical operations, and forms the digital backbone of the company.

IFS for project-based production

FNSS, one of the leading companies in the Turkish land defense industry, is recognized as a global leader for its tracked and wheeled armored vehicles designed with an innovative, effective, reliable, and tailored approach. Distinguished for its exports, FNSS has delivered over 4,500 armored combat vehicles to date (November 2020) to users across different countries. In addition to its activities in Turkey, FNSS operates regionally with offices in Malaysia and Oman and conducts its operational and production processes using IFS. Nafız Kurt, the Director of Information Technologies at FNSS, said: "As demonstrated by the pandemic, digital transformation is a must, especially for companies like ours that are involved in design and manufacturing. An innovative and flexible ERP infrastructure that can be customized according to needs is also an important part of this transformation. We have been using IFS since 2009. The fact that the technical infrastructure of IFS is open to new developments and changes, and allows integration with other systems, has given us significant agility and competitive advantages since day one."

In 2008, due to changing conditions over time, FNSS decided to switch to a new generation ERP software that would support the design and production of products within more than one project, with lower lot quantities.

About FNSS

FNSS is a globally recognized Turkish land defense systems company, which specializes in designing and manufacturing effective, reliable, and customized tracked and wheeled armored vehicles with an innovative approach. FNSS's broad range of product portfolio includes tracked armored vehicles in the 15-ton class, medium weight tanks, 4x4, 6x6, and 8x8 tactical wheeled armored vehicles, mobile floating assault bridge, armored engineering machines, as well as manned and unmanned towers.

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Nafiz Kurt explained the criteria they considered during the 9-month decision process: "The preferred software had to be able to support the design, supply chain and production processes of multiple projects carried out simultaneously. It should also have made it easy to keep track of the costs under these projects. It had to be a company with consultants who understood us and could provide high-level support during the transition. The software had to be easy-to-use, which is a very important criteria for success for ERP applications. The software also had to be open to new developments and innovations and allow integration with other systems. After reviewing all of these criteria, we calculated the annual total cost of ownership and IFS stood out as the product that best suited our expectations and company structure."

The long-standing collaboration between FNSS and IFS has been successful since 2009. IFS plays an important role in FNSS' productivity and is used in all critical operations and forms the digital backbone of the company.

Benefits

FNSS designs and manufactures custom products with a lead-time. Of course, in every project, there are great similarities with previously produced vehicles. Therefore, guide data must be extracted from the ERP system based on the engineering and working hours spent on similar previous projects, as well as the costs for consumed materials and the quotations of suppliers. This data is critical as it will constitute the main cost item in the bids. In addition, the PLM system and the ERP system are integrated in order to deliver the new parts and change requests from engineering to procurement and production as soon as possible. FNSS provides data flow between these two systems using its web services. The most important issue to be considered during mass production is to ensure that the project costs deviate as little as possible from the bid, and also to remain faithful to the final product lead times of the project. Detailed information on both the actual costs and the delivery times can easily be retrieved from the ERP system and presented to relevant project managers.

FNSS developed a portal, used by more than 300 suppliers, which enables bilateral communication within the supply chain and a special Manufacturing Execution System (MES) application that delivers real-time tracking of the progress in the production site and other detailed information. These applications are also fully integrated with IFS modules.

Nafız Kurt, Director of Information Technologies, said: "IFS infrastructure allows us to detect possible cost and schedule deviations in advance by providing accurate base cost information for our bids and also by delivering the right information to the right people in the contract management phase."

Benefits

- Adopted a project-based production model

- Easier management of project costs

- Ensured bidirectional, real-time information flow throughout the supply chain

- Shortened delivery times

- Achieved sustainable agility

- Gained a significant competitive advantage globally

- Fast return on investment

- Access to key data for better informed business decisions

- Ease of use for end-users

Rapid adaptation to the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic had negative effects on the defense industry due to losses in labor force. FNSS directed a significant portion of its staff to work from home in early April 2020. Information Technologies Director Nafiz Kurt attributes their rapid adaptation to remote working conditions to the power of their IT infrastructure: "Before the pandemic, we had an IT infrastructure that would enable remote access with the highest security standards. IFS, which we call our digital backbone, already supports working remotely. Therefore, we were able to easily adapt to new conditions. We are going through times, where even domestic and international fair organizations—which are indispensable for the defense industry—will be held online for the next few years. We are already so used to online meetings that it will probably be an important part of our business life after the pandemic."

Plans for the future

Nafiz Kurt said that they plan to upgrade its IFS system to the latest version in 2022. In addition, there are some digital transformation projects that they are considering within the scope of Industry 4.0. One of the most critical is a project that will unify the design and production planning processes that are currently being carried out sequentially. Kurt states that they plan to gradually launch a new module of the PLM software, called Digital Continuity, within the next year. With the deployment of this module, designers will be able to make improvements on models, while manufacturing engineers will simultaneously create relevant manufacturing instructions and product trees (MBOM). The aim is to create a structure called concurrent engineering, which will save significant time for FNSS.

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Nafiz Kurt, FNSS Defense Systems, Director of Information Technologies

"Making sure that the data required by the decision-makers in the system is constantly up-to-date and delivered to end-users with user-friendly screens is only possible with an advanced digital infrastructure. For this purpose, we use the core ERP modules in IFS and we also run some custom applications developed internally, which are integrated with these applications. The fact that IFS allows integration with any system and provides a platform that can easily develop desired applications when needed, makes us more agile and competitive."

Nafiz Kurt, FNSS Defense Systems, Director of Information Technologies

Nafiz Kurt points out that a business intelligence portal, which displays the key performance indicators of some critical processes in real-time, was recently launched within the scope of digital transformation. Most of the information on this portal comes from the IFS system. The portal, which provides easy access to concise and critical information through a single interface, has been highly appreciated by the senior management. The plan is to expand this portal to include indicators of other processes.

IFS modules used

- IFS Base
- IFS General
- IFS Financials
- IFS Supply Chain Management
- IFS Manufacturing
- IFS Project-Based
- IFS Maintenance
- IFS Sales and Service
- IFS Human Resources
- IFS Sales and Marketing

Find out more

Further information, e-mail **info@ifs.com**, contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, **ifs.com**

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