

# Hexpol Engineered Products leave customization behind with IFS



The business challenges faced by HEXPOL Engineered Products, a world-leading polymers group, will be familiar to all multinational, multi-site businesses operating in highly competitive environments with complex supply chains.

Meeting customer expectations of short lead time from order to shipment is a major challenge when production lead times are long. The solution is a highly efficient supply chain with complete visibility in every step. Thanks to IFS, HEXPOL Engineered Products has a highly streamlined supply chain, optimized inventory, and increased cash flow and return on capital employed. HEXPOL Engineered Products were involved in the IFS Applications Early Adopter Program and enjoyed significant R&D benefits.

## Multiple sites, one server—for lowcost, efficient ERP

HEXPOL Engineered Products runs IFS in its production plants, two in Sweden, one in the US, two in China and two in Sri Lanka, as well as in its distribution centers, one in Germany and one in the US, all from a single server in Sweden. A long-time user of IFS Applications, HEXPOL Engineered Products has two main reasons for retaining the ERP software as the company continues to grow. One is the user-friendly interface that has enhanced productivity. The other is the multisite functionality. Running just one ERP system with IFS, means that HEXPOL Engineered Products can lower its IT costs, in part because of its thorough knowledge of the solution.

It also uses business intelligence software from IFS to quickly collect data for analysis. This gives HEXPOL Engineered Products good visibility at any given moment into how individual subsidiaries are operating and meeting their KPIs. With all subsidiaries from Europe to China and the US on the same software and working more or less the same way, HEXPOL Engineered Products is standardizing as much as possible the way the software is used, and is working to extend the use of IFS to get a more complete view of its business.

## About HEXPOL

HEXPOL is a world-leading polymers group with strong global market positions in advanced polymer compounds (Compounding), gaskets for plate heat exchangers (Gaskets) and wheels made of plastic and rubber materials for forklifts and castor wheel applications (Wheels). Customers are primarily system suppliers to the global automotive and engineering industry, the construction sector, the energy, oil and gas sector, medical equipment manufacturers and OEM manufacturers of plate heat exchangers and forklifts. The Group is organized in two business areas: HEXPOL Compounding and HEXPOL Engineered Products with 43 production units. The HEXPOL Group has approximately 4,400 employees in 11 countries.

[www.hexpol.com/en](http://www.hexpol.com/en)



## Benefits

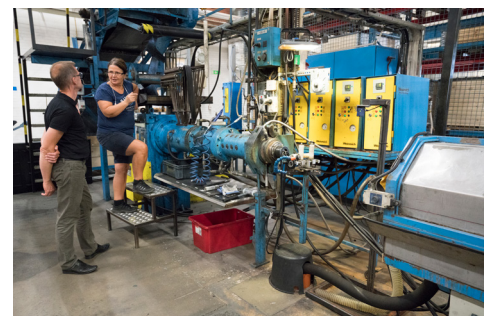
- Opportunity to shape the product
- Chance to learn more about new functionality
- First mover advantage
- Greater visibility into operations

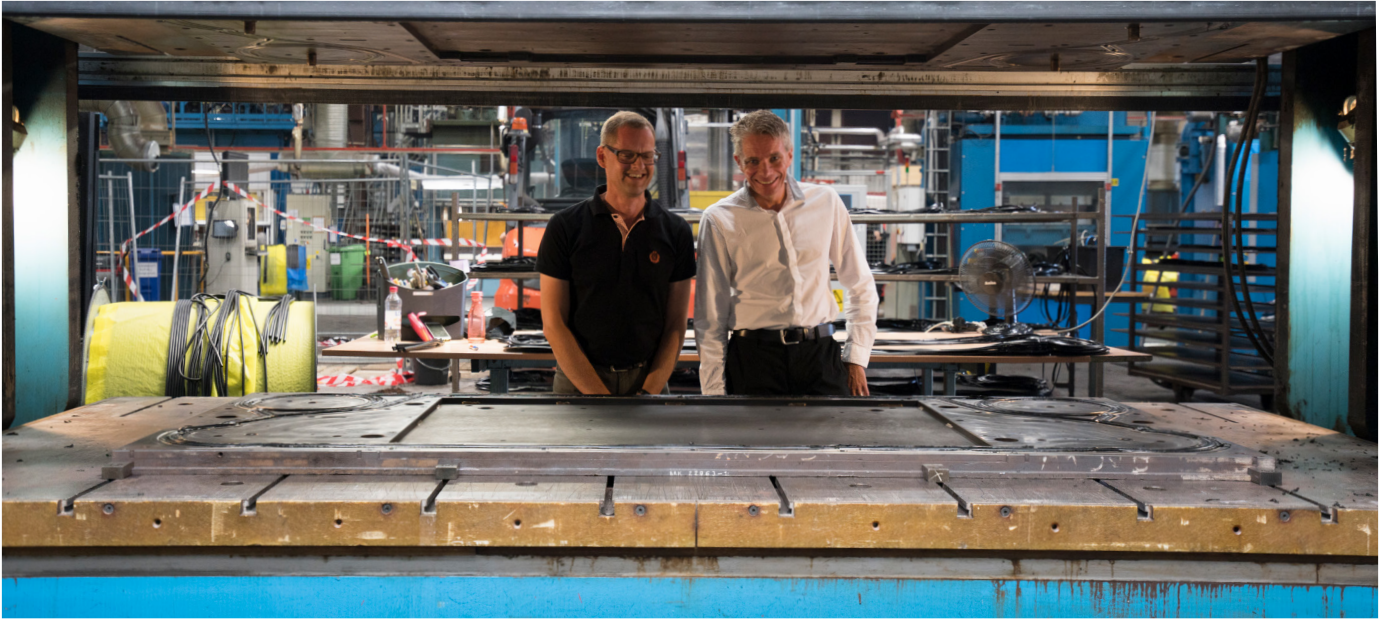
## Being an early adopter: the benefits for HEXPOL

HEXPOL Engineered Products has been an IFS customer since 2000. The company has grown and evolved alongside the advances made during the upgrade cycles of IFS Applications. HEXPOL joined the IFS Early Adopter Program for IFS Applications 10 in 2017 and whereas the upgrade cycle itself involved 12 months of testing, as opposed to the standard three months for a single upgrade, it enabled the company to work closely with IFS R&D teams and shape the final product in ways that were not possible before.

“The main benefit of the Early Adopter Program is that you have much closer contact with the R&D people,” notes Gabriela Karlsson, Financial Director at HEXPOL Engineered Products, “We can give our thoughts on how we want things to be and we can hear their thoughts on what they can do, and the background for a particular function. So we have a good contact channel to them now.”

With IFS R&D teams onsite at HEXPOL Engineered Products, system engineers were able to get a much greater understanding of how IFS was being used in the manufacturing process. This understanding enabled IFS and HEXPOL to work together in the development of a recipe structure to be used in the creation of rubber compounds. With previous versions of IFS Applications, HEXPOL Engineered Products had been required to undertake very specific customization processes to optimize the solution for its compounding business. As a result of Hexpol’s taking part in the EAP, IFS now features a compound recipe feature as standard. “This would not normally be available as an off-the-shelf function and only came about because of the EAP. The recipe function was a big adaptation in early versions, it was a big cost for us to add that at every upgrade. So now that it’s standard, it’s great.” says Karlsson, “Now it exists, other companies can take advantage.”





## Negligible business risks

Whereas there are always risks associated with any upgrade cycle, the team at HEXPOL Engineered Products were reassured that the level of testing required as part of the implementation would minimize the potential for harm to the business.

The challenge with such a lengthy upgrade process is maintaining enthusiasm and momentum among employees being asked to test processes that they do not necessarily perceive to be central to their day job. However, a clear benefit of involving people in the rigorous testing process is the familiarity it helps create with the system as a whole. As a result of taking part in the IFS Applications 10 EAP, HEXPOL Engineered Products gained significant first mover advantage over rivals that upgrade post launch.

## What's next?

With some very real benefits realized as a result of taking part in the EAP, HEXPOL Engineered Products is confident that it will take part in future IFS Applications EAPs. "Now that we know what it is all about and what resources are needed, the second time will be an even smoother upgrade," says Karlsson.

In the past we did not have the connection with R&D so it was difficult to ask for new functions, but now there were a lot of functions we could ask for which we now have.

Gabriela Karlsson, Financial Director  
at Hexpol Engineered Products

## Find out more

Further information, e-mail [info@ifs.com](mailto:info@ifs.com), contact your local IFS office or visit our website, [ifs.com](http://ifs.com)

