NOVACURA AND IFS DELIVER SMOOTHER PROCESSES TO ÖHLINS GROUP

What do you do when your current systems are no longer supported? This is the problem Öhlins Group, who depended on a variety of different applications, was facing. After an extensive selection process, Öhlins chose Novacura to help streamline its inventory management process. By using IFS Applications and Novacura Flow together, Öhlins has been able to update its inventory technology, increase productivity and make its business systems virtually future-proof. And inventory management is just the beginning.

ABOUT ÖHLINS RACING

Öhlins Racing develops and manufactures advanced suspension systems for mountain bikes, cars, motorcycles and the motorsports industry. Its passion for innovation and high quality has made Öhlins a world leader. With distributors and original equipment manufacturer (OEM) partners around the globe, information in many different systems and ever-growing requirements, the company's logistics face tough demands from ordering and manufacturing through to final delivery.

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HOMEGROWN SOFTWARE WASN'T RELIABLE

Öhlins was using a variety of old, outdated systems in various parts of the supply chain. It was looking for a solution to connect its warehouse systems and picking machines to IFS Applications—something with more support and reliability than the homemade and outdated solutions they had been using. "From the management perspective, we saw a very high risk with our proprietary solutions and our dependence on a product that was

no longer being supported," says Arnold Hovén CIO of Öhlins Group. After a comprehensive selection process, Öhlins chose Novacura Flow to help update its supply chain processes.

MORE EFFICIENT WAREHOUSE PROCESSES

The original intention was to use Flow for inventory management to take the data collected from the older systems and the information collected by IFS Applications and combine it into one easy-to-use dashboard. In addition to IFS Applications and Flow, Öhlins uses HP laptop computers in its forklifts, giving employees picking instructions to find the right location in the warehouse. Upon selection the product's barcodes are then scanned using hand-held devices.

Using Flow in the picking process has helped Öhlins improve efficiency, but it's also helped the company save significant training time by allowing it to create workflows that steer users to do things in a certain order, ensuring they get access to exactly the options they need.

THE MOST EXCITING THING OF ALL ABOUT NOVACURA FLOW IS THAT IT CAN WORK WITH MANY MORE THINGS THAN JUST A BUSINESS SYSTEM. OUR IMAGINATION AND ACCESS TO DEVELOPERS ARE THE ONLY LIMITS!

ARNOLD HOVÉN CIO, ÖHLINS GROUP

Another benefit Öhlins found using Novacura Flow in conjunction with IFS Applications is scalability. As the business grows and adapts, Novacura Flow and IFS Applications will grow with it. The flexibility of Novacura Flow means that processes can be updated and changed in hours instead of weeks, and if there isn't a ready-made solution available, it's easy to create an application right from Flow itself.

"IFS is an incredibly comprehensive ERP system with a lot of possibilities, but it's difficult to have insight into detail in all parts of it. So, you have incredibly great opportunities to control everything in detail, but at the same time it can be quite complex. And this is where Flow is so exciting," says Hovén.
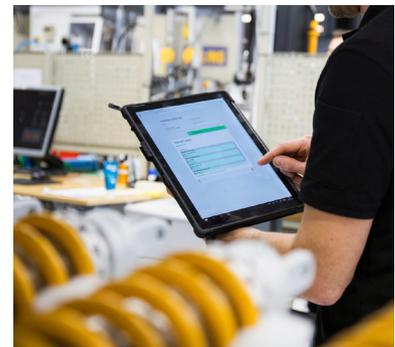
But Öhlins saw other uses for Novacura Flow as well. In the manufacturing process, for example, it can collect important safety information direct from its tensor wrenches and link this data to each order. Öhlins also uses Novacura Flow to create a customer portal where customers can place their own orders, even if they want to order parts from different factories.

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

Technology doesn't move backwards. If current systems are outdated or unsupported, it can put the entire supply chain at risk. There's a need to replace those older systems with something flexible and adaptable enough to grow with the business for years to come. It should be something that can connect to all business systems, collect data from many sources, and help companies use that data to work smarter in every part of their operation.

"We've now reached a stage where everything that enters or leaves our warehouse is dealt with using Novacura Flow and reported to our business system, whether these are components or finished products, and whether they need to be sent to customers, scrapped or otherwise dealt with. Being able to work with different systems within a single flow is essential," says Hovén.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ÖHLINS GROUP

The next step is to bring IFS Applications and Novacura Flow to Öhlins Group's factory in Thailand and distribution center in Germany. As Öhlins Group grows, changes, and adopts innovative technologies, it has the tools in place to quickly and easily adapt its business processes to those innovations. By using Novacura Flow and IFS Applications together, Öhlins has the tools to create a system that's perfectly customized for its needs, both now and in the future.

BENEFITS

- User-friendly interface: little to no training required

- Flexible enough to be used throughout a business, not just in the warehouse

- Changes and updates can be pushed to production in hours instead of weeks

- Low code platform: easily create your own custom applications to extend functionality even more

- Reliability: 100% uptime since launching this project in 2016

FIND OUT MORE

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