



HOW REICH GMBH ENSURES HIGHEST QUALITY VIA THE CLOUD

Success Story

REICH GMBH





“We have accurate, real-time performance data available anytime, anywhere. It enables us to manage our production globally, efficiently, and adaptively.”

Christoph Renner
Production Manager Reich GmbH

REICH GMBH AT A GLANCE

Industry: Automotive

Location: Mellrichstadt
(Bayern)

Revenue: >150 Million €
(2019)

Employees: 1.000

www.reich-gmbh.com

“We communicate remotely via computer every day with the US team and everyone is looking at the same data. Both plants have reached the same higher level of performance after a short time.”

Stefan Helm

Sales & Operations Planning

The Company

Quality is a tradition at REICH: From bicycle bells to the factory of the future - automotive supplier REICH GmbH, headquartered in Mellrichstadt (Bavaria), has a more than 100-year history of the highest quality standards. Customers such as Bosch, Continental, Mercedes-Benz, and ZF rely on its proven quality and delivery reliability.

The challenge of manufacturing depth: Greater product diversity, shorter production cycles, smaller batch sizes - for REICH, it is essential to ensure the highest quality in the face of increasing performance and market requirements. The approximately 100 million parts and products per year, for which the company processes around 80 tons of steel and 30,000 forged parts every day, are all manufactured on its machines - for turning, gear cutting, grinding, and heat treatment.

Managing costs: Quotation calculations must be continually verified and adjusted to reflect actual experience with cycle times, quantities, and scrap rates.

The Goals

REICH's long-term goal is to operate at the same high level of quality and added value at all three locations in Mellrichstadt, Arden (USA) and Schwarzenberg (Saxony).

- Delivering on the quality promise to customers in the supply chain by leveraging industrial IoT
- Achieving sustainable productivity improvement through lean organization and lean technology principles

The project

REICH GmbH has launched a digital transformation project. The goal is to enable global production control with the FORCAM IIoT platform solution powered by Azure Cloud and sustainably increase its efficiency, quality, and value creation.



Solutions in use:



Machine
Connectivity



Performance
Analysis

SUMMARY

Successful combination of FORCAM FORCE IIOT platform solution and Microsoft Azure Cloud

Real-time performance data on an OEE basis synchronized across continental boundaries

99% quality level achieved in the US pilot plant in a short time (=1% scrap)

Interested?

Then talk to our specialists concerning your digitalization intentions!

Get in touch now

The results

Quality assured globally

The combination of FORCAM's integrative IIoT platform solution and Microsoft Azure Cloud enables REICH to deliver on its 100-year-old promise of quality to its international manufacturing customers in the 21st century.

Key metrics as a result of digital transformation include

- Overall Equipment Effectiveness OEE (utilization / performance / quality).
- Customer order fulfillment performance
- Scrap rate

Quality and performance benefits

Real-time performance data based on OEE makes factory locations comparable. This means that no matter where a product is manufactured, it will meet the same high-quality standard worldwide. In addition, REICH can create a central knowledge database for sustainable optimization. The desired performance and quality standards have been achieved by the U.S. pilot plant in Arden in a very short time. Current delivery reliability for key customers is close to 100% at the main plant and already within the target range at the U.S. pilot plant after just a few weeks.

Efficiency and empowerment benefits

In the U.S. pilot plant, the team is learning to control production independently with the OEE KPI and to intervene quickly in the event of malfunctions. Supervision and support are provided from Germany. To this end, the teams at headquarters share their experience with OEE in each production area. Time resources are saved as the need for travel between headquarters and the U.S. site has been halved by at least 50%, and the trend is continuing to fall.

Value creation and sustainability benefits

Planning and controlling functions can draw meaningful conclusions about operational costs at any time: order lead time, work-in-process inventories, tool life and rejects are recorded, analyzed, and improved. Large savings in material resources have been realized. The teams at headquarters share current successes directly with the U.S. teams, as was recently the case with steel purchasing, thanks to an optimized material usage ratio. The U.S. pilot plant thus brought the quality/scrap ratio for materials in the first areas up to the company-wide target level of 99% quality level (=1% scrap).