

Volkswagen AG

ONE PORTAL FOR EVERY- ONE

With the introduction of a catalog management system, the automobile manufacturer Volkswagen was able to optimize its purchasing processes. Around the world, the company's employees order their consumable goods from a single portal using the POET solution.



The Challenge

World-wide, Volkswagen is one of the leading automobile manufacturers, and it is the largest producer of cars in Europe, delivering approximately 5 million automobiles every year. In Western Europe, every fifth new car comes from the Volkswagen group. Volkswagen operates 47 production plants in eleven European countries and in seven countries in the Americas, Asia, and Africa.

The intent was this: Introduce an electronic ordering system with a single, company-wide portal to rationalize the procurement of goods not associated with manufacturing. Make ordering processes transparent and greatly simplify communication between suppliers and buyers. Allow all Volkswagen employees to order what they need directly from their desks. And finally, ensure that only approved and valid product data from suppliers is available for ordering from the system.

The Solution

The POET catalog software ensures that the correct product data are available for the ordering process. All supplied product data is reviewed by the Purchasing Department and then either approved or rejected. Approved products are then available to VW employees for ordering. Employees can use the various search mechanisms provided in the product catalog in order to search for the items they need, and then add them to a shopping cart. Predefined product lists allow regularly recurring orders to be placed particularly quickly. Finally, the shopping cart is sent to the interfaced procurement system for final approval and placement of the order.

Since the introduction of the POET system, its use within Volkswagen has grown to about 14,500 catalog users. About 1,000 orders are handled by the POET solution every day.

The Possibilities

Now that consumable goods are purchased via the catalog-based, electronic solution from POET, Volkswagen has been able to tap into an immense potential for rationalization. In particular because of the integrated search and order processing, significant process cost optimizations have been achieved. Orders can be calculated accurately and as a result, warehouse capacity and capital commitment reduced.

Since the introduction of the POET solution, supplier offerings have become transparent and can be reviewed in detail, as well as compared against previous product catalogs. Extensive change reports support Purchasing in their review and approval tasks. With the introduction of the POET solution at Volkswagen AG, Purchasing has been relieved of much of its day-to-day tasks and can concentrate instead on its strategic duties.



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