

Quintiq was acquired by
Dassault Systemes in 2014 and is now
DELMIA Quintiq

Case study

Meneba develops products at lowest cost possible using Quintiq software

MENEBA



Meneba's processing capacity of 1.2 million tons of corn ranks it among Europe's largest corn processing companies. With a staff of between 450 and 500 employees, Meneba's 2009 revenues were approximately €360 million (U.S. \$500 million). To ensure an optimal production process, Meneba decided to deploy the Quintiq software solution in 2002. Since then, Quintiq's software has helped the company solve a highly complex bill-of-material puzzle.

Although corn is a bulk product, there are substantial differences in terms of properties and varieties. For instance, properties such as water absorption, suitability for bread baking, protein content and protein quality can differ significantly. These properties may impact the quality of the end product — the blends.

In addition, the prices offered by various parties are subject to change, and the additives can impact the end product. "All these factors make the composition of all the blends that Meneba produces a highly complex process," comments Douwe Van Dijk, the company's Quality and Food Safety manager. At Meneba's production facilities, corn is blended and milled, which in the first instance results in a semi-finished product. Meneba distinguishes between several dozens of different semi-finished products. After that, the company blends these semi-finished products into 350 different end products. Meneba supplies these blends to traditional bakers, industrial bakers and producers of biscuits and related products. It also supplies animal nutrition and products for industrial applications.

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– Douwe Van Dijk, Manager Quality and Food Safety at Meneba

The challenge

For a long time, Meneba managed the formulas for all its semi-finished products and blends using Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheets. “However, at a certain point there were too many variables involved. We had to look for a more powerful system with which we could consistently produce the best blends against the lowest possible cost price,” explains Van Dijk. After evaluating various solutions, Meneba selected Quintiq. The software not only offered the best price per quality ratio, but also contained the powerful algorithms that Meneba required. These algorithms are crucial for the production of blends that consistently meet quality requirements at the lowest cost possible.

Procurement

The Quintiq system also plays an important role in the procurement of batches of wheat. Van Dijk explained: “In our industry we sometimes use high-grade American wheat. Consequently, when possible we look for varieties that chiefly have the same properties but are available at a lower price. We also have to take differences in properties for individual harvests and varieties into account. We are constantly searching for parties that offer the best properties for a specific end product at the lowest possible cost price.”

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– Douwe van Dijk,
Manager of Quality and Food
Safety at Meneba

Cost savings

Meneba has connected the Quintiq system directly to its JD Edwards® ERP system. When a solution is found, it is sent directly to the ERP system in the form of a bill-of-material. Van Dijk says the main advantage of the Quintiq system is the speed that the company is now able to make decisions in regard to the types of corn that must be blended as well as the way the end product is produced. “This is now possible with a simple click of a mouse button. The system will perform a high-speed calculation based on a host of variables and arrive at the best solution while taking into account predefined

constraints. This was not possible with our previous, Excel-based approach. Coupled with this, we are now capable of determining the lowest cost across the board in accordance with the specifications for each end product. Our production processes are highly dynamic...based on our experience we can say that our investment in Quintiq has made a substantial contribution to our bottom line.”



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