

Press release

Automotive supplier focuses on transparency and process optimization in production

Eberspächer aims for zero ppm and high efficiency with MES/MOM from iTAC

Montabaur, November 14, 2023 – The demands on automotive suppliers are becoming increasingly complex: stricter industry standards and specifications meet high and individual customer expectations. On the one hand, there is a demand for very high efficiency in production, while on the other, no errors are allowed to occur. The Eberspächer Group is able to manage this challenge. The system developer and supplier for the automotive industry relies on continuous process optimization and traceability in production. The MES (Manufacturing Execution System) from iTAC Software AG (www.itacsoftware.com) is used for this purpose at the locations Landau (Germany) and Tianjin (China).

With around 10,700 employees at 80 locations worldwide, the Eberspächer Group is one of the leading system developers and suppliers of exhaust technology, thermal management solutions as well as a professional innovation partner for the automotive industry in automotive electronics and air conditioning of special-purpose vehicles. The components and systems from Eberspächer ensure more comfort, greater safety and a cleaner environment. Eberspächer actively shapes the mobility change.

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Production processes can be controlled and monitored in real-time

Efficient and transparent production at Eberspächer is at the heart of the company's ability to adapt to dynamic market developments. Customer requirements are increasing rapidly and quality control must fulfill more complex tasks with maximum reliability.

To provide technological support, the company has implemented the iTAC.MES.Suite at its sites in Landau and Tianjin. The solution offers comprehensive downward-compatible ERP, PLM and system interfaces. SAP is connected to the MES as the ERP system. Among other things, the ERP system supports automatic feedback on the production status. Production processes can be controlled and monitored in real-time with the iTAC.MES.Suite. This creates the basis for the direct execution of production orders and dynamic reactions to changes.

Providing clear insights into current and past performance, especially for critical machines and processes, the predefined key performance indicators (KPIs) allow companies to closely monitor and evaluate performance parameters. In addition, process owners can quickly identify deviations from desired setpoint and respond to them efficiently. This helps to minimize production downtime and optimize operational performance.

Zero-defect strategy – with traceability and process interlocking

The MES ensures the traceability that is essential in the Automotive Electronics business unit. "Our electronics production is becoming more efficient. At the same time, a single defect can have more far-reaching consequences than ever before. Our customers expect components that are placed on a PCB to be traceable. End-to-end traceability is therefore crucial in order to minimize risks, prevent errors and optimize processes", explains Daniel Ignor, Local Process Expert in the Automotive Electronics area of the Eberspächer Group.

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The MES and its traceability function can be used to track the entire product manufacturing process. This is made possible by tracing all production and process data. Based on this information, process interlocking can be carried out during the ongoing production process.

With its real-time process interlocking mechanisms, the MES contributes to zero-defect production. "Thanks to traceability and process interlocking, we have seen an improvement in quality during series production. We have also been able to save resources in root cause analysis. Further advantages lie in performance monitoring, data collection and evaluation," summarizes Sergej Gertje, Head of IT & MES for Automotive Electronics at Eberspächer.

In line with the digitalization strategy at Eberspächer, those responsible are planning to further expand the area of application towards BI tools and IIoT as well as sensor data evaluation for the purpose of predictive maintenance.



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Image source: Eberspächer

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About iTAC

iTAC Software AG, an independent company of the mechanical and plant engineering firm Dürr, provides internet-enabled information and communication technologies for the manufacturing industry. Founded in 1998, the company is one of the leading MES/MOM providers. The iTAC.MOM.Suite is a holistic Manufacturing Operations Management that is used worldwide by companies in different industry sectors such as automotive, electronics/EMS, telecommunication, medical engineering, metal casting and energy. Additional services and solutions for implementing IIoT and Industry 4.0 requirements complete the portfolio. iTAC Software AG is headquartered in Montabaur, Germany and has offices in the USA, Mexico, China and Japan and has a worldwide partner network for sales and service. iTAC's philosophy is to connect people, data and systems.

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with extensive expertise in automation, digitalization and energy efficiency. Its products, systems and services enable highly efficient and sustainable manufacturing processes in different industries. The Dürr Group primarily supplies the automotive industry, producers of furniture and timber houses as well as the chemical, pharmaceutical, medical devices and electrical engineering sectors. It generated sales of €4.3 billion in 2022. The company has about 20,500 employees and 140 business locations in 32 countries.

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