



The Nouryon Pulp and Performance Chemicals plant in Columbus, MI manufactures and sells expandable microspheres around the world.

A need for better traceability and scheduling

The chemical site was still managing its raw material information, processes, and finished products on paper, and didn't have a system that was able to trace what batch number each customer delivery was associated with.

Results: A vision for global planning

By leveraging Proficy Plant Applications and Proficy Scheduler from GE Vernova, AkzoNobel was able to transform its operations.

- 20% Increase in capacity
- Decreased lead time to customer delivery
- Increased traceability of batch-to-customer
- Increased ability to spot key production trends

Global Solutions for Nouryon

- Proficy Scheduler / ROB-EX
- Proficy Plant Applications
- iFIX HMI/SCADA
- Proficy Historian
- GE Vernova Professional Services

MORE ORDERS IN PRODUCTION AND THEIR IMPROVED DELIVERY PERFORMANCE



Rynkeby Maskinfabrik A/S

Challenge

- Rynkeby Machine Shop struggled with an inefficient and time-consuming manual scheduling system, relying on paper and cardboard strips to plan production. This made it difficult to manage order changes, provide accurate delivery dates, and optimize production capacity.

Action

- Implemented Proficy Scheduler / ROB-EX, advanced scheduling tool that integrates with their existing business management system (C5). This allowed for real-time scheduling, automated updates on order progress, and better visibility into production status via digital screens on the shop floor.

Results

- **Increased productivity:** More orders processed without adding machines or employees by optimizing existing capacity.
- **Improved delivery performance:** More accurate order confirmations and proactive customer communication when delays occur.
- **Time savings:** Freed up resources for better follow-ups on the shop floor.

REDUCED DOWNTIME AND CLEANING CYCLES THROUGH PREDICTIVE SCHEDULING



Challenge

- Palsgaard A/S, a food emulsifier and stabilizer manufacturer, faced complex production scheduling challenges due to strict shelf-life deadlines, allergen management, and multiple product variants across different production lines. Ensuring precise scheduling was critical to avoiding costly delays, excessive cleaning cycles, and inefficiencies.

Action

- They implemented Proficy Scheduler / ROB-EX to gain real-time production visibility, optimize scheduling, and improve coordination across departments. It helped them manage allergen sequencing, predict potential delays, and optimize production sequences to minimize downtime and cleaning cycles.

Results

- Improved delivery accuracy by optimizing production schedules.
- Better allergen control, ensuring compliance with safety regulations.
- Enhanced production flexibility, allowing quick evaluation of rush orders.
- Reduced downtime and cleaning cycles through predictive scheduling.
- Increased efficiency in managing semi-finished products and raw material flow.
- Greater collaboration between planners, production staff, and procurement teams with a shared visual overview of schedules.

20% INCREASE IN PRODUCTION DURING DAYTIME SHIFTS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL MANPOWER



Challenge

WOCA Denmark struggled with inefficient production scheduling, leading to high costs, overtime work, and a lack of real-time visibility. The company needed a better way to optimize resources, reduce stock-related expenses, and improve customer service.

Action

They implemented Proficiency Scheduler / ROB-EX to coordinate and streamline the entire production process—from mixing to filling and packing. The integration with their ERP system provided real-time scheduling, improved resource utilization, and enhanced communication across departments. Additionally, they introduced the ROB-EX TimeTracker to monitor production in real time and proactively address capacity issues.

Results

- **20% increase in production** during daytime shifts without additional manpower.
- **Eliminated the night shift** while maintaining output.
- **Improved resource utilization**, reducing idle capacity and enabling better workload distribution.
- **More accurate delivery times** and better customer communication.
- **Higher job satisfaction**, as employees experience a well-structured and predictable workflow.
- **Full control over production**, allowing immediate response to any disruptions.

INCREASED COLLABORATION & VISIBILITY ACROSS OPERATIONS



Challenge

Australian Bodycare relied on Excel and NAV for production scheduling, but these systems lacked flexibility and real-time visibility. Scheduling was burdensome, changes were difficult to manage, and decision-makers had limited insight into production status.

Action

They implemented Proficy Scheduler / ROB-EX, after preparing their basic data and item lists. It provided a visual, real-time overview of production, allowing quick adjustments to schedules, better resource planning, and improved collaboration across departments.

Results

- **Flexible scheduling:** Immediate updates in response to machine breakdowns or changing priorities.
- **Improved visibility:** A shared visual schedule ensures all employees understand production plans and their role in the process.
- **Stronger collaboration:** Management and employees now work with a shared understanding, fostering better teamwork and accountability.
- **Effective support:** Quick and professional assistance ensures smooth operation and continuous optimization.

**PLANNERS SAVE
2 TO 4 HOURS/DAY, AS
SCHEDULING
ADJUSTMENTS ARE
AUTOMATED**



Challenge

AVK Plast struggled with an inefficient and cumbersome ERP-based production planning system. Making schedule changes was time-consuming, predicting production needs was difficult, and resource conflicts, such as crane bookings, created delays and inefficiencies.

Action

Implemented Proficy Scheduler / ROB-EX as their primary production planning tool. The system was integrated quickly (within five weeks), allowing for real-time scheduling, better visibility into production status, and improved resource allocation. Employees received hands-on training to ensure a smooth transition.

Results

- **Time savings:** Planners now save 2-4 hours per day, as scheduling adjustments are automated.
- **Improved production efficiency:** Downtime is minimized, machine changeovers are better planned, and material shortages are anticipated.
- **Enhanced customer service:** More accurate delivery forecasts and proactive communication with customers.
- **Smoother operations:** Employees experience fewer disruptions, resource conflicts are eliminated, and workloads are better balanced.