



Schneider Electric is a prime provider of innovative solutions for electrical distribution, industrial control and automation. It is one of Schneider SA's largest European operations and operates from 17 industrial and commercial sites. Schneider Electric's Telford and Swindon sites are complex facilities covering more than 12,000sqm, supplying products and services to four principal sectors (electrical supply industry, infrastructure and utilities, industry, commercial) in the UK and overseas and holding a stock value of £12 million.

Schneider brands include Merlin Gerin, Telemecanique, Square D and Modicon. Through its brands, Schneider ranks first worldwide in final distribution products, industrial control and automation components and busbar trunking. In total Schneider in the UK employs 2,500 people and has an annual turnover of over £154 million.

Schneider Electric sells through distributors who are chosen carefully for their experience, expertise and facilities. They are located throughout the UK, providing local stock holding points and at-the-ready-sources of help and advice.

Schneider's Challenge

Schneider Electric's challenge was to generate system coherence across the whole Schneider Group that would allow greater visibility into supply chain systems. As a result of the

rationalisation of the UK warehouses into two very important distribution centres, previous systems had been outgrown and a new strategic programme had to be developed.

Project FACT was established as a business driven project to implement an integrated supply chain management system with the WMS as a key component.

Schneider's Goal

As a SAP R/3 user, seamless integration of the WMS into the ERP system was essential to the success of the project. By moving

forward with the introduction of the very latest technology, including a real-time management system, Schneider expected

improvements and control in all operational processes within the supply chain infrastructure.

The Catalyst Solution

Schneider Electric carried out an exhaustive search for a suitable supply chain execution partner that would work together to achieve the business goals. Catalyst's supply chain execution solution matched these requirements, including the unique advanced interface with SAP that delivered the seamless integration that Schneider required and all the functionality, power, speed and

reliability demanded. Catalyst also provided the means for Schneider to adopt a system that was visible throughout in real-time through the implementation and integration of Teklogix RF devices.

Schneider now has three main methods of getting product to its customers. Dispatch is contracted out to a third party called NightFreight who sort all picked and packed

product at the dock door prior to shipping to Schneider customers. An express or same day delivery option is available on urgent orders. Finally, there are collection points at the facilities where customers or contractors with urgent orders or local companies can come in and pick up their orders.

Each distributor receives weekly deliveries of components to ensure

continuously high stock availability. Stock is supplied from the distribution centres at Telford and Swindon and

relies on the automation Catalyst brings to ensure orders are processed

and dispatched promptly throughout the UK.

Benefits

Since implementation of the system, Schneider has realised many of the benefits it set out to achieve. Productivity and task prioritisation within the supply chain have improved, together with significant advances in the use of space within the warehouse, with free bin locations managed and filled automatically. The instant availability of accurate information on inventory, orders and

scheduling have led to a major improvement in customer service. Questions from customers can be answered quickly and accurately on both pre- and post-sales enquiries, particularly for order status and stock availability. In addition, more urgent orders can be prioritised easily through the system with instant communication to operations staff. Movement of products and stock

within the warehouse is continuously monitored and the system re-maps locations using dynamic, real-time information to optimise work flow and maximise efficiency. The real-time system allows inventory checks to be taken at any time during the day, thereby increasing confidence in stock availability and ultimately resulting in lower, but more practical, inventory levels.

Return on Investment

Major benefits resulting from the Catalyst implementation include a

delivery fulfilment rate of 99.7%, improved stock accuracy, audit trails,

workload monitoring, visibility and increased information.

Customer Quote

“Our partnership with Catalyst has delivered supply chain execution systems that give us comprehensive control over all operational processes within the supply chain. The applications provide a seamless

integration with our SAP ERP system and has maximised the potential of our investment in this technology. Our inventory accuracy, real-time management and overall supply chain visibility have driven tangible, bottom-

line, benefits and have resulted in a rapid return on our investment.”

Andrew Holdroyd, Logistics Development & UK Transport Manager.

Technical Facts at a Glance

WMS Version:

- Catalyst WMS R7.1

Configuration:

- ERP is SAP R/3 V. 4.6c
- Unix is IBM running Oracle RDBMS
- RF is Teklogix (77 hand held devices)

Warehouses:

- Telford – 6,000Sqm
- Swindon – 6,000Sqm



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