

CASE STUDY:

# Brabant Alucast



## OVERVIEW

*Manufacturer of car engines, engine parts, and body parts increases stock reliability by implementing RFgen Mobile Foundations for Microsoft Dynamics.*



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### SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:  
Manufacturing

ENVIRONMENT:  
Microsoft Dynamics AX

APPLICATIONS:  
• Shop Floor Automation

## GOALS ACHIEVED

- 1 Increased stock reliability 26% and is still rising.
- 2 Increased efficiency by removing transfer of stock information from paper to automated data collection.
- 3 Reduced human error by automating invoicing system.
- 4 Increased employee satisfaction and enthusiasm to modernize.

“ Six months after the implementation, stock reliability increased from 26% and is still rising. ”

- Andre Voskes, Project Lead  
Brabant Alucast

## THE CHALLENGE

Until recently, the factories in Oss and Heijen worked with an old legacy ERP system from their association with Volvo. On the shop floor, they were only slightly automated. The fork truck drivers used to record all dislocated stock on paper and their logistics department processed the information manually into the computer system. This process was prone to clerical and typing errors with poor hand writing from some colleagues adding to the problem. “These problems slowed down our processes

tremendously,” says Andre Voskes. To ensure accurate stock records, Brabant Alucast had to perform a manual stock check every month. In most cases, the outcome was unpredictable which usually led to frustration. If you have more stock than expected, it costs the company a lot of money. If you have less stock than expected, the problem is much larger because the automotive industry has very tight restrictions when it comes to delivery times and accuracy.

The internal processes at Brabant Alucast have five stages. Positioning of incoming raw materials and other incoming goods, injection moulding, temporary storage of materials and the storage of completed products. In three different locations there are three different kinds of stock. If there are any stock errors of inbound raw materials, all of the stages following will be affected by these errors.

## THE SOLUTION

It was obvious the implementation of Microsoft Dynamics AX should be accompanied with the introduction of barcode scanning to reduce errors. After conversations with three different companies, Actemium was chosen as the best solution. "Actemium knew our processes and knew what was important for a company like ours and it was obvious they had a lot of experience in scanning solutions. Actemium gave me a lot of confidence in this project from the very first moment."

Actemium worked with RFgen because it cooperates with all the major ERP software systems. It doesn't make any difference which ERP solution is implemented. "I do think our implementation may have been

easier because we only use the standard AX solution and we preferred to change our processes to fit the application rather than to build a lot of customization on AX."

“ The forklift truck drivers are also very enthusiastic and don't want to go back to the old processes. ”

- Andre Voskes, Project Lead  
Brabant Alucast

Two people from Actemium and two people from Brabant Alucast started the project. Andre Voskes and Chris Jansen already knew what processes they required. "We didn't ask everyone for their opinion as this would have created too many new processes."

We were short on time as we wanted the project to go live in four months," tells Voskes.

The implementation went well and was continually on schedule. Because there were going to be many changes for the staff, Brabant Alucast decided not to change the mode of operation of the logistic departments. They also decided to keep the stock in the same place. "We also kept the system flexible to

have the option to make more improvements in the future, with more options to optimize processes even further. We didn't want to do everything at once and that's why we used barcodes with stickers which are easy to remove. On some locations the barcodes were worn away after six months, but this had already been taken into account."

## THE RESULTS

Brabant Alucast is now ready for the future. At the moment only internal logistics uses barcode scanning. Andre Voskes says it won't be long until the whole business is integrated and our suppliers and buyers will be working with barcodes. "Until recently, Utopia was a dream, but now there is a possibility it will become reality," says Voskes. A stock reliability of 100-percent is now realistic.



## ABOUT BRABANT ALUCAST

Brabant Alucast International, based in Oss, Netherlands, was originally a family business but has now been part of Volvo for many years and has expanded strongly internationally. During this early period, the company specialized in moulding and in CNC operations and assembly. When the automotive industry turned the focus on core-design and assembly, the company became autonomous and continued under the name, Brabant Alucast International, which now owns seven factories world-wide of which three are in the Netherlands. The company supplies car engines, car engine parts and body parts to most of the major automotive manufacturers.