Transparent Logistics for the Plastics Industry

How Meraxis is digitizing polymer value chains

Films, fibers, molded parts: Plastics are integral to virtually every industry. One of the biggest players in the global trade in polymer materials for the plastics processing industry is the Swiss company Meraxis. The polymer supplier boasts annual sales of more than two billion euros and a product portfolio that includes traditional plastics, engineering plastics, masterbatches (color granules), and recyclates. Meraxis also procures purchased parts (including metal, foils, electrical) as well as machinery, equipment, and tools for various plastics processing techniques. The Swiss company supplies polymers and polymer-related products to companies in all industries through a global network of 25 regional offices.

Challenge

The global polymer supplier aims to generate the majority of its revenue through digital sales channels by 2025. To realize this vision, Meraxis relies on powerful innovation partners to further digitize the polymer value chain. The "digital supply chain" project plays a key role here. The introduction of a cloud-based platform is intended to achieve end-to-end transparency in the flow of goods and transports, simplify the exchange of data, and optimize how information flows to customers.

"The control tower solution from Siemens Digital Logistics has helped us achieve our ambitious goals for a reliable and transparent supply chain, and it's also made us a whole lot more efficient."

Daniel Knöpfel
Head of SCM, Meraxis AG

SIEMENS

Solution

Meraxis relies on a control tower solution from Siemens Digital Logistics built on the AX4 platform. The solution is key to the polymer supplier's vision to merge its physical and virtual processes and offers all the features needed for a successful digital supply chain. AX4 offers a tracking & tracing system that maps the order status across clearly defined milestones, from placement to pickup to proof of delivery. The solution also has an alert function for end-to-end supply chain monitoring, automatically notifying you of any deviations from the intended shipping process. The control tower solution also seamlessly integrates all connected suppliers and carriers with existing SAP system ecosystems and will eventually integrate into the Meraxis customer portal as well.

Success

The Meraxis supply chain achieves the vision of end-to-end visibility—it becomes transparent. This visibility goes beyond warehouse-to-customer transports to encompass all logistics processes and partners. Standardized digital processes mean that all shipping documents are available centrally at the click of a mouse and all involved partners are connected to the platform through EDI, web, or email. This not only slashes administrative overhead, it also revolutionizes document exchange and freight cost management. The new level of transparency also reduces the risks associated with shipping, eliminates the expense of extra trips, and lets customers know exactly where their shipments are at all times. Tools such as milestone tracking and rules-based event management help automate many of the tasks that waste precious time and lead to unnecessary errors in logistics networks.

SIEMENS