From oily scraps of paper to online reports.

Reliable reports and security
ITB’s principal activity is processing die-cast aluminium components for the vehicle and electronics industries. The plant in Unnaryd now houses 30 or so robots, all linked to WebWare. Mikael Kjellström is a robotics engineer at ITB Teknik. “We use robots to control the machinery in production. They insert unprocessed components and then remove the finished components from the machines. We use WebWare primarily for generating reports. The reports allow us to localise any problems that arise on evening/night shifts. WebWare is also used for making backup copies of our robot programs”, says Kjellström.

Subjective evaluations
Björn Söderberg, CEO, launched ITB Teknik together with a partner 20 years ago. “Before we created WebWare, all backups used to be to diskette. All reporting on stoppages, etc. was handled manually. Evaluations were very subjective; operators often felt there was a lot wrong with a machine, but it was difficult to put your finger on the specific problem. One concern was that, because we operate round the clock, actually compiling the information was difficult and time-consuming.” Mikael Kjellström concurs: “Before the installation of WebWare we had to gather information from evening and night shifts by means of traditional production stoppage reports on paper. It was easy for reports to get lost in the plant, and they were often totally smeared with oil when I actually got them.”
Problems can be put right immediately
The reason for ITB Teknik investing in WebWare at the start of 2004 was that they were looking for a single tool to gather information from all the machines. They previously employed several different manual systems where operators had to fill in stoppage reports, etc. They wanted to automate the process and gather all data in one system.
“WebWare is an excellent tool for following up on productivity. The software records the various operations performed by the robot as it inserts components into the machine and picks components from the pallet. WebWare allows us to follow up on production simply, to see when stoppages have occurred”, says Söderberg.

Since installing WebWare we have eliminated all use of paper and can also attend to problems immediately, as we can see any that have arisen during the night straight away next morning and can take care of them directly”, notes Kjellström.

Quality improvement
Söderberg asserts that since ITB Teknik integrated WebWare into their production system the quality level of the entire production process has substantially improved. With WebWare’s help, they can spot deficiencies in handling and trace mechanical problems. This in turn has lead to increased productivity thanks to the fact that problems are detected much earlier and can be put right quicker.

Satisfied customers
“WebWare is an easy-to-handle tool thanks to its simple interface. By pressing just a few buttons I can generate new production reports or make a backup of a robot program”, explains Kjellström. ITB Teknik’s customers are primarily within the automobile and electronics industries. Customers look very positively on the fact that, thanks to WebWare, the company now boasts traceability in its machinery round the clock. They see improved management of quality issues and production follow-up since the installation of WebWare.

Inspirational tool
“I believe that WebWare has a lot more potential that we have not yet exploited and I am fully convinced that we will derive even greater benefit from this software in the future. We plan to use WebWare to an even greater extent, to measure increases in productivity, changes in the process and similar. The interesting thing is when employees discover what you can use the software for and develop different methods to improve productivity and quality. It inspires the whole company”, says Söderberg.

FACTS
ITB was founded in 1986 in a 400m2 workshop. The business concept involved processing castings from foundries prior to delivery to the end customer. Over the years ITB Teknik in Unnaryd has expanded, and now boasts a 4900m2 workshop and a large number of CNC-controlled machines and robots.

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