

SAP Customer Success Story

“mySAP PLM provides real-time access to consistent product data. This increases transparency for all employees involved in a development project, reduces lead times, and increases productivity.”

Elmar Müller, Project Manager, KARL STORZ



AT A GLANCE

Company Name

KARL STORZ
(Germany)
www.karlstorz.com

Industry

High tech (medical instruments and devices)

Key Challenge

Lack of consistent, transparent product-development data company-wide

Implementation Partners

- gedas (mySAP PLM)
- MHP (mySAP ERP)

Solution and Services

- mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management (mySAP PLM)
- mySAP ERP
- SolidWorks (for computer-aided design)

Existing Environment

- SAP® R/3®
- Various disparate systems

Implementation Highlight

Implemented mySAP ERP after mySAP PLM (atypical approach)

Key Benefits

- Faster lead times
- Accelerated time to market
- Improved ability to conform to legal requirements

Hardware

- HP RP7410 (for SAP R/3)
- HP Compaq ProLiant DL380 (content server)

Operating System

- HP UX B.11.11 (for SAP R/3)
- Windows 2000 (content server)

KARL STORZ

KARL STORZ REORGANIZES IT INFRASTRUCTURE USING mySAP™ PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT (mySAP PLM) AS A STAND-ALONE SOLUTION

KARL STORZ of Tuttlingen, Germany, a global manufacturer of medical instruments and devices, took its IT landscape to a whole new level when it implemented the mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management (mySAP PLM) solution. The purpose: to provide all employees involved in the development process with tools for effective product data management, ensuring consistency of product knowledge company-wide. mySAP PLM was the first of several SAP® solutions to go live at KARL STORZ.

MAKING MEDICAL HISTORY

The name KARL STORZ is synonymous with innovative world-class achievements in the field of endoscopy – including, for example, the development of cold light technology for providing enhanced visibility into the human body and the HOPKINS rod-lens system for transmitting and capturing realistic images of the human body. As a result of these accomplishments, KARL STORZ has not only secured a place in medical history, but has reached a commendable level of success, which is reflected in the company's growth rate. Founded in 1945, KARL STORZ has evolved into an international operation with more than 2,800 employees.

A NEW PLATFORM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

With the continuous development of new products – which include endoscopic systems for checking machinery and components in industrial settings – KARL STORZ must constantly

deal with an increasing number of applications. Such innovation requires powerful development tools and adequate IT support to ensure high levels of productivity at low cost and accelerated time to market.

In the face of these requirements, the company recently decided to standardize its global development landscape using the SolidWorks computer-aided design (CAD) platform. However, to fully capture the potential of the new environment, an additional step was required. KARL STORZ needed an effective IT solution to help it manage CAD-related data – for product design, assembly, parts, and so on. Plus, it needed a solution that would give employees across various sites and work centers quick and easy access to all product-related data and documentation. “We analyzed several solutions and selected mySAP PLM,” comments Elmar Müller, project manager, KARL STORZ.

FIRST PLM – THEN ERP

The mySAP PLM implementation at KARL STORZ did not follow a typical pattern; most companies implement mySAP ERP and then add software as they transition to a more comprehensive global solution. But KARL STORZ did just the opposite (at the time of the mySAP PLM implementation, the company had only just begun to discuss redesigning its enterprise resource planning environment). In fact, it was a year after the mySAP PLM project began that KARL STORZ switched its commercial and logistical infrastructure to mySAP ERP, including functionality for materials management, production planning, controlling, human resources, and financial accounting.

In the early stages of the project, the implementation team made sure that the company’s mySAP PLM solution would link seamlessly to its future ERP system, so that the flow of information between the two systems would be consistent. “That worked,” comments Müller, reflecting his satisfaction with this approach.

FASTER LEAD TIMES/ACCESS TO CURRENT DATA

But the Tuttlingen-based company had many more reasons to be pleased. “We are now able to exploit our development potential more effectively,” says Müller, citing faster lead times and accelerated time to market for new products. With the standardized SAP solution, redundant, nonintegrated data stored throughout multiple systems at various sites is a thing of the past. mySAP PLM integrates all critical information, and enables users to quickly find what they need, eliminating complicated and costly searches for product data.

With mySAP PLM, employees in all departments throughout KARL STORZ can now share and coordinate information – in real time – thanks to a user-friendly interface developed by gedas, an SAP partner. Whether they are at CAD work stations in construction, or in purchasing or quality control, users can rapidly gain access to specifications on devices, as well as information regarding assembly, parts, and designs – whatever they need – thanks to mySAP PLM’s automated information exchange process.

USER-FRIENDLY SEARCHING WITH RAPID RESULTS

But that’s not all: mySAP PLM gives employees real-time information regarding product status, which enables transparency in the development process. In addition, reports help in the approval process of drawings and designs, while automatic workflows support product change management. And, with comprehensive documentation for the entire product development cycle, KARL STORZ can ensure it passes inspections and complies with any regulations on medical equipment.

KARL STORZ continues to refine and improve its processes using mySAP PLM, with the ultimate goal of implementing the solution company-wide. By enabling the exchange of product-related information throughout its global operations, the company is ideally equipped to meet any challenge head-on – and stay competitive.