

Improved Asset Traceability | IFS Ultimo with IFS Ultimo

As part of its modernization strategy, Rockfon implemented IFS Ultimo to gain better visibility over its operation, improve traceability, and enhance communication.

Modern manufacturing

Rockfon's sister operation in Belgium was already using IFS Ultimo and was especially satisfied with the system's high level of customizability, making it a good fit for Rockfon's unique operating environment.

One challenge to overcome was the need to digitize asset data. Previous maintenance tasks were recorded on paper, making it impossible to provide a comprehensive overview of actions taken, including components that were replaced and when. IFS Ultimo digitally records every step in the maintenance workflow, so each piece of equipment—and the tasks related to it—are easily accessed.

Rockfon has also improved the way it tracks assets. With various exchange parts in each machine, totaling thousands of individual dies, keeping track of part location and maintenance status without digital records was a significant challenge.

With IFS Ultimo, engineers easily monitor locations, maintenance status, and other information related to the dies in real time.

Records for individual pieces of equipment from every process function are digitally collected, including pictures, bills of material, and information on the dies used. When an engineer works on a ten-part die set, they simply access the required drawing and other information from IFS Ultimo using their iPad.

Make the most of mobile working

Rockfon leveraged IFS Ultimo to introduce new efficiencies and functionality to the factory floor. With extensive mobile working features, technicians access essential asset information while they're onsite, recording their tasks via their iPads with no need to return to the office.

About Rockfon

Part of the global ROCKWOOL Group, Rockfon is a leading provider of stone wool acoustic ceilings and wall solutions, including acoustic ceiling tiles, wall panels, and suspended ceiling grids. Its site in Chicago specializes in manufacturing metal ceiling panels and Chicago Metallic® ceiling suspension grid systems using roll-forming.



Simplifying communication

The Rockfon maintenance team works in three shifts, a model that made it difficult for supervisors to interact with employees prior to their shift. With IFS Ultimo, supervisors plan jobs in advance, sending the details directly to the worker's iPad so everyone understands the work that must be done for the shift.

Switching to IFS Ultimo simplifies communication. The legacy paper-based processes were prone to human error. Printouts were often misplaced or not read on time, resulting in jobs being missed. Now, all workers access real-time asset information regardless of their location.

Working with iPads has also increased email traffic, which was previously under-utilized. For example, a technician on duty sends an update email with pictures to the entire team so when the first shift starts, they are already aware of the issue and able to address it without delay.

IFS Ultimo has helped break down silos in our organization. Before, the attitude was that we were all separate teams; that's their team, and this is ours. Now, we are one team working across shifts helping us all work better together.

A shared responsibility

Self-service capabilities with IFS Ultimo have improved safety. Previously, issues were noted but not communicated to the maintenance team and ultimately never actioned.

Now workers submit a maintenance request as soon as they detect a problem. Jobs are no longer missed, the equipment is in better condition, and issues are resolved immediately. .

IFS Ultimo plays a vital role in helping Rockfon modernize its operation, delivering increased efficiencies across all maintenance processes.

Despite initial concerns that employees would resist the change, the EAM technology and mobile working model were easily implemented and adopted. Staff quickly became familiar with the user interface, and workers with little experience using iPads rapidly embraced the ability to record daily tasks into their devices.

Challenges Rockfon faced:

- Lack of visibility to asset status due to paper-based processes
- Poor traceability of essential parts
- Inefficiencies in recording and sharing information

Benefits of IFS Ultimo:

- Better communication between teams
- Immediate access to critical data in digital format
- Elimination of human error in record keeping
- Improved safety across the facility

Find out more

Further information, e-mail info@ultimo.com, contact your local IFS Ultimo office or visit our web site, ultimo.com

