With the development and production of reusable transport packaging made of plastic, the bekuplast group of companies has been focusing on sustainable solutions for storage and transport of all kinds of goods from the very start. Having digitized core company processes with ELO professional, the company is also able to drive forward sustainable business development.

bekuplast GmbH, headquartered in Ringe near the Dutch border, has specialized in the production of reusable plastic solutions. The company’s product portfolio includes environmentally friendly and sustainable plastic containers, trays, and pallets. What’s more, customers can return old containers at any time for recycling and reuse. bekuplast GmbH has also been awarded the Blue Angel environmental seal for one of its product lines. The company wanted to extend its sustainability practices to its business processes by going digital, and in 2019 implemented the ELO professional ECM system for storing and processing business information.

“Thanks to process automation with ELO professional, we were not only able to significantly streamline the invoice verification process, but also ensure transparency and legal certainty when filing business documents.”

Maik Westenberg
CIO/IT manager
bekuplast GmbH
The solution
Practical added value

Facts
Country: Germany
Industry: Manufacturing and production

Company
The bekuplast group of companies based in Lower Saxony is one of Europe’s leading manufacturers of reusable transport packaging made of plastic.

Challenge
Automated business processes and seamless integration with existing IT systems

Solution
- Automated capture and archiving of business documents in ELOprofessional
- Integration of Microsoft Dynamics AX with ELO Business Logic Provider (BLP)
- Automated invoice processing

Benefits
- Increased efficiency with lower process costs
- More accounting transparency
- Streamlined company processes

From flower bulbs to global player
The success story of bekuplast GmbH began in 1985, when the company founders used an injection molding machine to produce the first plastic containers for the transport of flower bulbs. The product range was quickly expanded to include containers for growing fruit and vegetables, for the food and technical industry, and various other kinds of merchandise. Many more products were developed in the 1980s, and in 1993 bekuplast achieved a breakthrough with the development and production of collapsible containers.

The company has consistently grown the business over the last decades, opening additional production sites in Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland. Today, bekuplast GmbH is a leader in the production of plastic universal containers. The group of companies has more than 500 employees working on innovative goods transport solutions. Sustainability is at the fore of the business: The company philosophy of the family-run business is to produce reusable packaging and containers that are environmentally friendly and recyclable.

Innovation and sustainability in digitization
A sustainable innovation strategy is important for companies to remain successful. This is especially true for the bekuplast group of companies, which began to transform innovative ideas into real solutions early on, enabling the SME to become a global player in its sector.

To ensure that the company is future ready, the group management decided in 2016 to replace its analog business processes and physical archives for data storage. The search began for a suitable solution that could digitize all business-relevant documents and automate workflows such as invoice processing. The goal: more transparency, faster processing, and more time for the core business as a result.
All requirements met: ELO and the SIEVERS-GROUP

After conducting a comprehensive analysis of the solutions in the market, bekuplast chose the ECM system ELOprofessional for its digital strategy. To implement the project, the group of companies turned to the experienced ELO Business Partner SIEVERS-GROUP. Within just six months, the IT experts from Osnabrück implemented ELOprofessional, a central repository for all business documents. In addition, the ELO Business Logic Provider (BLP) was used to seamlessly integrate the ELO solution with the ERP system Microsoft Dynamics AX, and automated invoice processing was implemented.

A central repository for more than just business documents

Before ELO, business documents at bekuplast had been stored either in physical folders or in electronic form on network drives, in e-mail mailboxes, or on local hard disks. Since the implementation of the ELOprofessional repository for all business documents, the more than 120 users of the ELO solution have benefited from many advantages. For example, the efficient search function ELO iSearch enables users to find documents and information in the ECM system in a matter of seconds, a crucial benefit in today’s fast-paced business environment.

Seamless integration with Microsoft Dynamics AX

The bekuplast group of companies has been using Microsoft Dynamics AX to handle its business processes since 2009. With the help of the middleware ELO Business Logic Provider (BLP), the company was able to seamlessly integrate the ERP system with ELOprofessional. All outgoing documents generated in Microsoft Dynamics AX, including transport requests, quotations, and order confirmations, are automatically filed to the ECM system in PDF format. ELO BLP keywords the documents and defines corresponding filing rules, which ensure that the ERP documents are stored to the correct location in the ELO repository. Folders that do not exist in the repository when a document is filed are also automatically created with ELO BLP.

Automated invoice processing

The intelligent classification module ELO DocXtractor digitizes and automatically analyzes incoming invoices on receipt. Using AI technology, ELO DocXtractor reads the information on the invoice document and compares it with the ERP system Microsoft Dynamics AX. Once the data has been reconciled, the invoice is fed into the respective release process. An ELO workflow adapted to the requirements of bekuplast GmbH was created for several different approval scenarios. As a result, the incoming invoice process has been streamlined, and the accounting department can see the current processing status of every invoice at a glance.
Summary and outlook
Thanks to the successful introduction of the ELO solution, bekuplast GmbH now realizes the full benefits of digital processes. The company has been able to cut costs while increasing efficiency in the commercial areas of the business. Within a short time, ELOprofessional has become the central system for data management in the company, enabling the different departments to communicate and work together more easily.

But that’s not all: bekuplast can also rely on ELOprofessional when it comes to data security, as it allows users to encrypt sensitive data and documents on filing to prevent misuse of data and unauthorized access. A permissions concept restricting access to sensitive data in the repository was also implemented.

With ELOprofessional, bekuplast is well equipped for the future in all aspects of digital information management. As a result, the family-run business can put its entire focus on promoting the development of sustainable solutions for the transportation of goods.