bewa-plast Beck GmbH has made a name for itself with the production of state-of-the-art uPVC windows and innovative accessories. The family business is based on environmentally friendly, sustainable solutions, and with the ELO ECM Suite has extended its philosophy to digital business processes.

At its headquarters in Mengerskirchen in the state of Hessen, the company develops and produces high-quality windows, doors, and accessories made of uPVC for modern residential construction. Essential for bewa-plast Beck GmbH is the focus on sustainable solutions “made in Germany”: The insulated windows the company manufactures make a valuable contribution to the reduction of CO₂ emissions. In addition, the company only manufactures using lead-free uPVC profiles, which are also made from recycled materials. With this amount of entrepreneurial vision, it is hardly surprising that bewa-plast also wanted to adopt a future-proof solution when it comes to digitization. With the introduction of a system for enterprise content management, the ELO ECM Suite, the company has taken an important step in this direction.

“Thanks to the ELO solution, we now handle more than 12,000 accounts payable invoices per year in a fully automated and digital process. This saves us a lot of time and resources.”

Bülent Erbas
head of IT, bewa-plast Beck GmbH
From one-man show to sustainable window production

Herbert Beck began the success story of the family business in 1952 with the production of wooden windows in his own carpentry workshop. Just two years later, the company moved into its current main manufacturing facility, expanding its product range to include wooden roller shutters. In the 1960s, the production switched over to uPVC windows and shutters, and automation of the manufacturing process progressed steadily.

After the company founder’s death in 1986, his wife Maria and their three sons Walter, Erich, and Siegfried took over the business. By that time, the company was growing steadily, and the product range was improved and significantly expanded in the following years. New production facilities were added and the family business relied more and more on sustainable production techniques with added value: Since then, new windows at bewa-plast have been manufactured from recycled window profiles, a valuable contribution to environmental protection. Today, the company has more than 200 employees who continue the successful history of bewa-plast Beck GmbH.

Ever in search of innovative solutions

Right from the start, the family business wanted to continuously optimize and automate its production processes. Whether by switching from wood to uPVC and finally to recycled uPVC profiles in its manufacturing operations, or the topic of digitization and connecting employees, bewa-plast GmbH has always been searching for future-proof solutions. In 2016, the management also decided to drive forward digitization within the company and make the production process largely paperless. The company required a one-stop solution that was capable of replicating all company processes electronically. In particular, the management wanted to automate and streamline the incoming invoice process. Another requirement was to digitize and automatically file outgoing documents for each transaction.
Industry experts at work: 3E Datentechnik and ELO Digital Office

For bewa-plast Beck GmbH, the industry knowledge of ELO Business Partner 3E Datentechnik GmbH was the main reason for taking the leap towards digitization in 2019 with the ELO ECM Suite from Stuttgart software developer ELO Digital Office. Thanks to seamless integration with the industry ERP software 3E-LOOK, the experts at 3E Datentechnik were able to implement and go live with the ELO solution in just a short time. Today, employees in all areas of the family business benefit from a single system for digitization and automation of all business-relevant processes.

ELO ECM Suite – the foundation for digitization

With the implementation of the ELO ECM Suite as a central repository for the administration of all business-relevant documents, bewa-plast was able to significantly accelerate a large number of internal processes. Contract documents, order and delivery notes, and many other documents are now assigned to the respective business transaction and filed to the ECM system. With the help of the powerful integrated search function ELO iSearch, employees are also able to view all data about a specific transaction in record time. The result: Employees are able to deliver information on demand, improving the service offered to the specialist trade, property developers, and private customers of bewa-plast Beck GmbH.

More efficiency with intelligent invoice management

At the heart of the ELO project, however, is the digital incoming invoice management solution ELO Invoice. The pre-configured standard solution was implemented on the productive system at bewa-plast within a short time. The more than 12,000 vendor invoices received annually are now processed automatically, resulting in much faster invoice throughput. A particularly important component of the overall solution is the intelligent classification module ELO DocXtractor. Once they are in the system, the software analyzes and classifies incoming invoices using the latest AI technology. The module subsequently extracts all relevant invoice data on the document, compares it with the data in the integrated industry ERP system 3E-LOOK, and exports the data to an ELO workflow for invoice verification and approval.

Automatic archiving of outbound documents

Using the interface to the ERP software 3E-LOOK, all outgoing business documents are digitized and automatically filed to the corresponding transaction in the ELO system. The company’s employees can easily keep on top of all orders, and can provide information on the current order status at any time in a matter of seconds, a vast improvement in customer service.
Summary and outlook

The implementation of the **ELO ECM Suite** as the central information platform was an all-out success for bewa-plast Beck GmbH. The employees of the family business quickly took to the new processes and are actively shaping the path towards a digital future.

In addition, bewa-plast was pleased with the work they conducted with the **ELO Business Partner**. With the **ELO ECM Suite** and the industry solution 3E-LOOK, the experts at 3E-Datentechnik GmbH put together a complete package from a single source that enables users to find information in seconds, even when using different systems.

In addition, the intelligent invoice management solution **ELO Invoice** and the AI-supported classification module **ELO DocXtractor** ensure a significant reduction in time and resources when it comes to processing invoices. This allows the management to concentrate on its core business: the development of sustainable solutions “made in Germany” for modern window construction.

“Our employees have taken to the new processes with great enthusiasm. This is also why the advantages of digital document management with the ELO ECM Suite work so well.”

Bülen Erbas
head of IT, bewa-plast Beck GmbH