



Novozymes has reduced lead times by 30% and achieved a considerable increase in productivity

Enzymes everywhere

Enzymes for industrial utilization are found in e.g. detergent, animal feed, the production processes of bread, wine, beer and juice, and also in the treatment processes of textiles and leather. Enzymes replace traditional chemicals or additives, and make possible a reduction of water and energy consumption in many production processes. Enzymes are found inherently in all living organisms; plants, animals, and human beings.

The production process

The production process where micro organisms are grown to biochemical products is in general called fermentation. The fermentation process is a biological process created by microorganisms such as yeast or bacteria, for example yeast cells that transform sugar into alcohol. After fermentation, the material undergoes a very complicated cleansing and purifying process that is divided into several steps, which are carried out in a separate purification facility. The material is liquid and undergoes a process involving between five and 12 steps with a lead time up to 170 hours. The production process varies considerably. The material consists of living yeast cells, and consequently not two batches will be identical.

Ambitions of better scheduling

Novozymes wanted to improve the scheduling of the purification processes. In general the objective was to carry out the scheduling assignments locally and to improve predictability of the process. The mean included raising the level of detail. Previously only the first step in the planning process was scheduled, and therefore it was difficult to see and handle bottlenecks. The aim for Novozymes was to schedule all processes, including intermediate storage on tanks, and have a quick implementation of the solution.

The solution

Novozymes chose ROB-EX Scheduler because of these features:

- Graphic display and editing of Gantt schedule
- Linkages between process steps
- Definition of resources including capacity and allowing for flexible definitions of one or more physical plants as a scheduling resource
- Alternative production routes
- Setup and changeover time, transportation, and overlap for operations
- Feedback of start/stop directly to the schedule with visualization of consequences if operations are delayed
- Re-scheduling on the basis of new situation
- Bottleneck sorting

The orders are detail scheduled on app. 40 resources and the current schedule is distributed electronically via a ROB-EX viewer for operators in the control room.



Integration to SAP

At Novozymes ROB-EX gather data for detail scheduling from the ERP system SAP. The exchange from SAP to ROB-EX includes order data (batch no., product no., amount, and planned start/stop), resources, and production routes (prescription). This saves double data entries and minimizes errors in data.

Improvements that are easy to spot

The biggest gain has been achieved through improvements in lead times. This has also led to better compliance with delivery times to internal customers, a reduction of work in progress, and capacity on existing equipment has been freed. Now the operators can see immediately what a delay somewhere in the process means for the rest of the production process, and how it affects the orders that are in progress – not to mention what alternatives there are to choose from when adjusting the schedule. Decisions are made faster and on a qualified basis, and employees are happy with the visual overview and clarity in the complex production.

Challenges

Establish a local detail scheduling that could increase predictability

Solutions

- ROB-EX planner
- ROB-EX viewer
- ROB-EX plus
- ROB-EX shop floor
- ROB-EX integration

Benefits

- Improved lead times
- Reduced work in progress
- Freed up capacity
- Visual overview and clarity

About the customer

Novozymes A/S is global market leader within the field of biotech. The division in the Danish town Kalundborg produces enzymes and microorganisms and has more than 700 different products. The site i Kalundborg is one of the world's largest and most advanced enzyme production facilities.