

ACHIEVING GOALS WITH MOBILE HIGH TECH



Puralube Germany is using enterprise mobility solutions from BARTEC to both better market its premium base oils and produce them more efficiently. The aim is complete process control.

Taking a look through the fence around the company premises is like gazing into science fiction. A man in a blue overall looks at a flat display on his arm whilst wearing a camera on his helmet. As he moves his head, a red dot of light passes over the complex system of cables and valves before landing on a certain point. The mobile worker speaks with a colleague via his Bluetooth headset. He presses a button on the helmet camera, looks again at the display on his arm and walks on to the next inspection point.

On the cusp of ...

This may sound futuristic, but it could soon become standard issue in the process industry, according to Dr Soenke Moehr, Director of Global Sales, Marketing &

Communication at Puralube Germany (in future: PURAGLOBE). This is the case at least in the speciality chemicals sector or the mineral oil industry, with their high-tech products such as the high-quality and sustainable base oil specialities. Here at the Zeitz industrial park near Leipzig, these are created from used oil using the highly innovative and exclusive UOP-Hy-Lube™ process. Moehr uses an example to explain how the market requirements are becoming ever more demanding and specifications ever tighter: “Low-friction oils for passenger vehicles are becoming ever thinner, but cannot be allowed to lose the lubrication function that is vital for the engine. In order to deliver on promises like this to the end customer, the production processes must not only be completely

documented, but also closely monitored and controlled.”

... complete process control

Another consequence of this development is that testing and inspection intervals are increasingly becoming shorter, with a CpK value (process capability index) of almost 100 per cent at the end of development. This is only realistic, however, when staff on site can be connected online at any time with the processes and detect any deviations immediately. Puralube Germany already boasts an extremely high level of automation, and now wants to bridge the last gap to achieving real-time access to process data. If, in future, an operator in the refinery wants to check the current situation on a certain bubble cap tray, he can



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do this directly from the affected column without having to phone first. A glance at the display is all it takes. If the light is green, everything is OK.

Strategically motivated solutions

In order to make process information available on the go, and therefore further improve the company's efficiency, Puralube Germany made a conscious decision to pursue mobile enterprise as part of its repositioning as a high-tech business. The right partner has already been found. Thanks to its internationally leading position in explosion protection and its outstanding expertise in enterprise mobility, Puralube chose BARTEC. Its Impact X smartphone certified for Zone 1, along with the Agile X tablet PC system suitable for Zone 2 and the compact, intrinsically safe Orbit X helmet camera, create the ideal device base for the project.

Mobile device management (MDM)

In order to implement and manage this quickly, BARTEC used its scalable MDM solution Collaboration X. With this, Puralube Germany can roll out the mobile devices and administer them remotely, including settings for video conferences and cameras. Thanks to the integrated cloud storage service, photo and video data can also be saved and managed securely online. Beyond this, BARTEC's product range also includes the corresponding wireless equipment for the mobile enterprise strategy, such as ex-protected access points and antennae. "Not only is BARTEC an experienced solutions provider, it is also an important pioneer that is constantly alerting

us to new potential," emphasises Soenke Moehr. As it generally takes time to achieve the complete process monitoring on site, however, the partner recommends a gradual introduction.

Three-stage implementation

The first wave of optimisation involves the helmet cameras, which enable HD image and video recordings in hazardous areas, either online via the network or offline using the local device memory. This makes typical tasks like routine and ad-hoc inspections, maintenance and repair work or training safer and more efficient. In the second stage, ex-protected smartphones or tablet PCs bring ERP, office and visualisation applications into hazardous areas, in order to improve mobile workflows and communication. The third stage of the project allows for collaboration in real time. This means, for example, that the control centre or external experts can be brought in via video conference to enable quick decision-making and precise interventions.

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The long-term goal: ISO/TS 16949 certification

Puralube has no time to waste in implementing the new strategy, as it aims to have its refinery certified to the latest standard ISO/TS 16949 within three years. "The quality requirements in the automotive industry are currently among the toughest in the world and in order to meet these, having complete control over our production processes is essential," says Moehr. "The mobile enterprise solution from BARTEC will be up and running by the time we prepare for the next audit." ///



Find out more about the enterprise mobility project at Puralube Germany in this video.

About Puralube Germany (in future: PURAGLOBE)

The German subsidiary of the American company group Puralube Inc. (in future: PURAGLOBE Corp.) works independently in the market for base oils. The company operates two refineries at the Zeitz industrial park, located around 40 km south of Leipzig. These produce high-quality API group II base oils from used oil using the innovative UOP-HyLube™ process. In recent years, this has saved a total of around 3 m tonnes of CO₂, making a significant contribution to climate protection. Puralube Germany produces a total yearly output of approx. 150,000 tonnes, around 80 per cent of which is made up of the strategically important base oils. The company employs around 125 people at the site.