



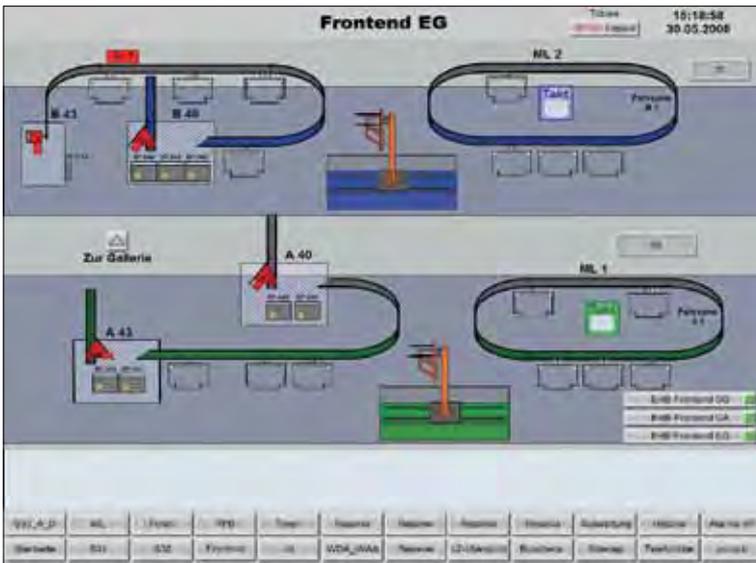
Condition monitoring with zenon – all the key figures at the press of a button.

A streamlined production system is based on all the relevant key figures for production and performance always being available, and on production being standardised to the greatest possible extent. At Volkswagen in Emden, zenon is responsible for transparency in assembly, increased productivity and greater plant availability. Thanks to the zenon-based assembly information system, the maintenance engineers benefit from instant access to all production-related information and key figures.

The Volkswagen plant in Emden has a daily capacity of 1,200 vehicles, and has produced more than 9.5 million vehicles since the plant was opened in 1964. The Passat Limousine has been built in Emden since 1977, and the Passat Variant is only built here. The Emden site has been the leading plant in the world for this successful model.

ZENON SETS NEW STANDARDS

Several generations of Passats have been manufactured here. Half way through 2003 the 12 millionth Passat, and in September 2004 the 13 millionth Passat from any Volkswagen plant was produced. The sixth generation of Passat Variant was launched in August 2005. In November 2007 Volkswagen in Emden produced its 15 millionth Passat worldwide. 2008 was the launch year for the new model, Passat CC, that is produced exclusively



area. For storing and archiving data, the managers at VW decided on a (Microsoft) SQL-Server. The database is automatically populated from the zenon-SQL-Server connector, which also ensures that the data is read back automatically. Also included is a powerful user management module for defining access rights to the project and system. The user management module is used to specify which users are permitted to view or modify which functions – such as the shift schedules.

WELL-THOUGHT-OUT PROJECT STRUCTURE

The umbrella project, which integrates all the systems in the four assembly shops, includes the system overview displays, the industrial performance analysis, the production and facility manager (for the shift models), the higher-level alarm management, the chronological events list, counters and plant downtime, plus the initial project for the web client. The individual sub-projects include the system displays with detailed information, the driver links and control variables, alarm zones and the plant’s shift reference.

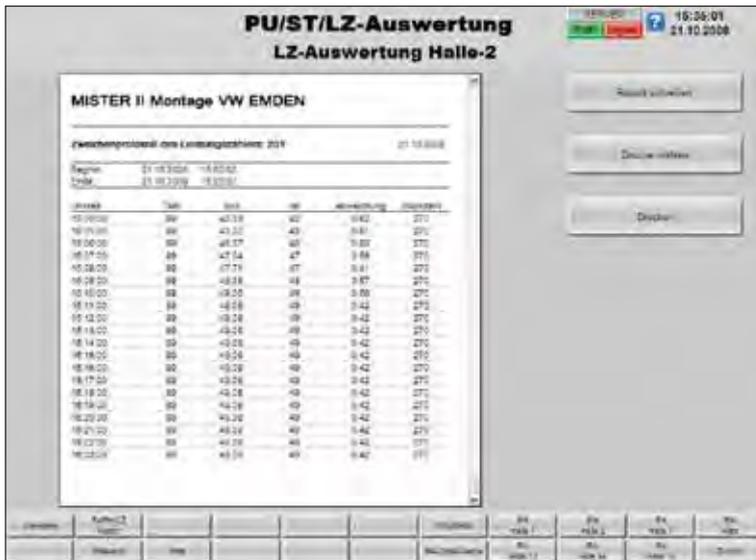
ZENON – SUCCESSES BECOME MEASURABLE

One of the important goals for the new overall system at Volkswagen was to gain clear and total control over the assembly processes, both for management and for those working in the assembly shop. One of zenon’s exceptional strengths is its ability to manipulate large volumes of data and to display them in a useful format to managers or those working in the plant. Volkswagen’s main interest for its Emden plant lay in presenting the key figures for the production process and output in the form

of graphs and tables. The car manufacturer can now use these key figures to see how cost-effectively the assembly shop is operating. In other words, results become measurable. The key figures might, for instance, include target and actual values for the overall life of a production line, possible differences, the cycle times, the setting up of events in the plant and their causes, and the number of finished cars. Mario Ewen explains: “Monitoring the key figures ensures that the assembly process is running as efficiently as possible, and at full capacity. This system provides us with an overview of all the important information, allowing us to carry out detailed analyses and react quickly to events as necessary.” Volkswagen could also use this data to detect any delays in the course of the assembly process and the causes, allowing an appropriate response. The integrated soft PLC, straton, which complies with the IEC standards, is used to calculate the buffer, unit, and output counters. To ensure that all the key figures reflect the assembly processes exactly, Volkswagen uses an additional zenon module. The production and facility scheduler (PFS) controls the chronological sequence of operations in Emden: at this plant a number of working hours models (shift system, lengths of breaks, etc.) are used. The shift hours entered from the PFS can be classified, grouped and evaluated. They are also fed into the performance calculations. “When all the figures are combined, they tell the story of how many cars we are actually producing. The opportunities for evaluating and monitoring our assembly processes are more detailed and sophisticated than ever before”, observes Mario Ewen.

ALL THE KEY FIGURES, CLEARLY PRESENTED AND READY FOR USE

VW managers can view all the key assembly figures in either



All values displayed in the screenshots in this article are for illustration only.

table or graph form. Individual users can choose how they want the information to be presented. They can also select from many time scales, and different periods of time can be compared with one another. In this way, Volkswagen workers have access to extensive and at the same time highly condensed information that is available at the press of a button in the form of lists and analyses.

The report generator shows the archive entries in table form, and outputs the reports in HTML format - likewise either as a graph or a table. The Extended Trend module is provided for preparing data in graph form. At runtime users can arrange for various graphs to be displayed, and even for more than one graph to be compared. This ensures that all the relevant operators can view and use analyses, reports and graphs. "The central plant monitoring application is a tool for improving availability", explains Mario Ewen.

TOTAL CONTROL

The higher-level visualisation is now also used as a central point for all events in the plant and system messages. Volkswagen used to operate two systems for this purpose, but these have now been replaced by a single standard system. "As well as the system and plant monitoring we also wanted detailed analyses – on the one hand to ensure maximum availability and on the other hand to exploit any potential for optimisation", explains Mario Ewen of Volkswagen. All the operators now know instantly what they should do if they receive a system message, and can respond straight away.

Around 5,500 operating messages and system messages per day are produced by the assembly lines in Shops 1 (engine and gearbox), 2 (main assembly, drive assembly, disks, cockpit, etc.)

7 (headlamps, batteries, seats, wheels, doors, etc.) and 16 (initial assembly following paint). All the information is on hand to enable statistical evaluation and analysis with the industrial performance analyser. This information can also be viewed in the form of bar charts or pie charts. Filtering options enable online alarms, historical alarms, pending alarms or reset alarms to be shown, and to specify their display order: by time, class or priority.

At Volkswagen the alarms are also cleaned up at a break or shift change. This overlaid cleanup process ensures that overlapping messages are not only added, but that the net downtimes are taken into account in calculating the duration of an alarm. Every alarm that has caused a downtime is stored along with the possible discrepancy in unit numbers. The discrepancies are evaluated either individually or in total using the line, time, and shift plan filters, and are displayed on a zenon screen.

OPTIMISING MACHINES ACTIVELY

To ensure that the entire system can be serviced, maintained and upgraded efficiently, Mario Ewen and his colleagues have opted for zenon. It is important to the managers that all future system upgrades as well as all maintenance operations can be carried out without involving a service provider or other external partner. This saves both time and money.

The industrial maintenance manager is responsible for looking after the machinery and maintenance data. Service and maintenance intervals are easy to specify, manage and schedule, as are the detailed instructions. Those employees who are responsible for maintenance can now see at a glance when equipment, plant and machinery is due for maintenance. All maintenance operations are documented in logs.