

# SOFTBRICK

WORKFORCE SOFTWARE

# SUCCESS STORY

# TESTIMONIAL

*"Job time registration has nothing to do with 'Big Brother is watching you'. Rather, it is an ingenious system for time control and management, enabling us to calculate prices more accurately, plan operations more efficiently, and exercise better progress control. Everyone at our company benefits from this, even the people who work with the system itself."*

## JOS SCHEPERS OF THE VDL ETG IN ALMELO FINANCIAL, LOGISTIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANTAGES OF JOB TIME REGISTRATION



*Jos Schepers is responsible for ERP support at the VDL Enabling Technologies Group in Almelo. He had one clear wish when he first came across Softbrick: he wanted a system for order time registration that would be able to communicate seamlessly with BaaN software.*

*The fact that Softbrick met this requirement filled Jos with satisfaction. It is no surprise that within the VDL organization Jos Schepers has become an ambassador for order time registration, which found its roots in the Machine Factory at Almelo.*

"As BaaN application manager, I am part of the logistics management team. One of my responsibilities is converting company objectives into practical solutions using BaaN. The interface between Softbrick software and BaaN software is a prime example of this. The system is quite simple. The workers indicate on the clock - using scanner and keyboard - what they will be working on and Softbrick software immediately channels this information from the work station to the BaaN software. Softbrick is actually a useful repository for all information regarding the time and place of certain activities. For the workers, the system works naturally. The clock maintains a dialogue

with workers and precisely indicates what needs to be done. The system only starts at the moment that the worker indicates which action he will carry out. When the clock reports the task as complete, the BaaN software also registers that the assignment is finished.



### INTERNATIONAL IMITATION

VDL ETG in Almelo is part of the international network of VDL ETG Factories, formerly Philips. As a

primary supplier, the company plays a prominent role in the Dutch and international markets. "It is the intention for our order time registration solution to be introduced in all of the Machine Factories. We worked for instance on a project

in Singapore where the BaaN and Softbrick system used in Almelo has been copied to the letter."

Jos Schepers has been working for VDL ETG for 20 years and has amassed a large amount of practical experience. This experience serves him well as international ambassador of this system.

### EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND TIME

Technologically speaking, it is a powerful system. The business management aspects, however, count the most for Jos. "The philosophy behind time management is important. The same applies to the manager and the worker: time is money. Every minute is valuable. But time can also be measured, a fact you have to use effectively. This measurability provides something to hold on to, even for the specialists on the shop floor.

At first, our people saw it as a form of Big Brother. And that attitude initially hampered its acceptance. But hour registration is not intended to check on employees. This form of registration actually provides information that we as a company can learn from. We can, for instance, determine whether the time forecasted for a process was realistic or not. In any event, we can now say how many hours are truly needed for a product. We have a surprisingly accurate system of calculation, through which we have built up a stronger negotiating position."

Fortunately, everyone was quickly convinced by these arguments. "Within 14 days, all the employees had accepted the system. They have a better understanding of it now and see that it works."

### HASSLE-FREE IMPLEMENTATION

"Thanks to the interface between Softbrick and the BaaN software, we can review results to the smallest details. BaaN is the primary system



involved in this design and it requires information, which Softbrick supplies."

The idea and specifications for the interface were Jos Schepers' brainchild. "After gaining a clear view of the project, Softbrick brought the entire project online and completed it without any problems. The implementation was hassle-free."

A project group, comprised of a number of employees, managers and Jos, also made an important contribution to the implementation. When they tested the system in a practical situation, it proved to work well. "We had one advantage. We were already familiar with the principle of time registration. We simply added something to that principle: scanning an assignment. Technically, it was no problem."

### I SIMPLY SAW THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE

Why did Jos opt for Softbrick? "For me, it was only a question of job time registration functionality. We simply wanted something different. In addition, our absence registration software needed to be replaced. During my quest, however, it seemed that job time registration and hour registration are founded on the same

principle and that we could benefit from switching over to a single standard software package that offered all the functionality that we required."

To find the right partner, the organisation called in a consultant, who put together a short list. After an intensive selection process, Softbrick came out as the best choice. "I knew what I wanted and saw that Softbrick could provide it."

Jos considers Softbrick a well-designed piece of software. "Adjustments within the time registration, for instance, are forwarded to the job time registration perfectly. The system continually adjusts itself, even after many recalculations.

Further, he considers Softbrick an excellent company. "If the system is to be supplemented, you'd be better off not doing it yourself. You should leave that to the specialists. I am thoroughly satisfied with Softbrick. And you know what I consider the biggest advantage? They aren't pawn pushers. They deliver precisely the functionality that we want."

