Operations Excellence

Boosting Production Efficiencies

In an interview with *PharmaAsia*, **Dietmar Mueller**, Head of Sales Asia-Pacific, for Werum Software & Systems AG, talks about how manufacturing execution systems (MES) are helping pharmaceutical manufacturers further improve and boost the efficiency of their production processes.

Tell us more about your company.

Dietmar Mueller: With over 15 years of Pharma MES experience, Werum is known worldwide for partnering with its global customers to create state-of-the-art software products and solutions. We supply MES to the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industries. Our PAS-X Platform is used by 16 of the world's top 30 pharmaceutical and biotech companies in more than 600 installations worldwide.

Dietmar Mueller

How do you see the role of MES evolving for pharma?

Mueller: To an increasing degree, it will be a matter of integrating different business functions like Process Development, IMP and Track & Trace in a central platform. This manufacturing IT platform serves as a "manufacturing backbone". It not only vertically integrates the ERP system with the production equipment on the shop floor level; it also horizontally integrates new production processes and multi-purpose equipment.

What key concideractions are driving pharmaceutical and biotech companies to implement MES?

Mueller: Pharma and biotech companies look for a software product that covers all needed functionalities and is focused on the specific requirements of the industry. It must enhance operational quality and ensure compliance. But most importantly, the software should be implemented at the lowest possible costs within a short project timeline, and drive efficiencies that will result in a clear ROI.

To what degree does PAS-X meet the market expectations?

Mueller: Together with the PAS-X User Community, we have developed PAS-X into a software product that provides all major functionalities required by the pharma and biotech industry "Out of the Box". We supply a pre-configured package that includes software, content and services. We believe that Werum is on the leading edge by including predefined content targeted to our customers' processes together with the software. And it all can be supported with matching services.

How does technology platform standardization help a global manufacturing company?

Mueller: A standardized technology platform is a foundation to harmonize processes within or between different plants and to achieve greater transparency across all sites. This is a major factor that drives efficiency in global organizations.

What are manufacturers' priorities when selecting an MES?

Mueller: The pharmaceutical and biotech industry is changing faster every year, so it is very important to keep up with new technologies and trends. The demand is for flexible GMP compliant architectures that can deal with multi-site rollouts covering multiple manufacturing technologies. The supplier should be specialized in the respective industry, know the industry's processes and guarantee customers a high degree of continuity, investment security and personal key account management.

What benefits does an MES investment provide?

Mueller: Shorter lead times by reducing the flood of information; "review by exception" to speed up the release of batches; fast, reliable and secure data entries; efficient equipment management; improved process security due to early detection of deviations; and transparent process data evaluation. **PA**