ROTHBAUM
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

FERON

Digitization at the three Féron sites

Design of the IT system architecture and selection of a future-oriented manufacturing execution system (MES)

At a glance

Some of Féron's production facilities are operating at full capacity. In addition, the IT system landscape has grown organically over time and is no longer adequate given the strong growth in sales.

To meet these challenges, the goal was set to strategically realign the entire Féron IT architecture, with a particular focus on selecting a suitable MES.

Aluminium Féron GmbH & Co. KG

- A family-owned company with a history dating back to the 1930s.
- Its three plants in Düren produce coatings for the print, protect, decor, and solar sectors at a world-class level.
- The broad product portfolio includes coatings on various materials, from coffee capsules to labels for baggage handling at airports.
- With 250 employees, Féron generates sales in the high double-digit millions.

Services

- **IT architecture:** Assessment of the current IT system landscape and conceptualization of the future IT system landscape, including an implementation roadmap.
- **System selection:** Strategy definition, assessment of requirements and processes, tendering, evaluation, and selection of an optimal MES provider.

Results

- Conceptualization of the future Féron IT system landscape across all functional areas.
- Structured recording of Féron's requirements for the future MES and mapping of all relevant core processes.
- Definition of important use cases and contact with potential MES providers.
- Creation of a detailed business case as a basis for evaluating and finally selecting a provider.
- Support during the development of the proof of concept.

Project description

The main challenge of the project was to systematically capture the expertise that experienced employees had accumulated over decades and translate it into a structured list of requirements. The production planning and control methods were not scalable given the ambitious growth trajectory through 2030.
Féron therefore made targeted investments in modern IT infrastructure to drive this change forward. The initial focus was on the core of the business—production.

Procedure

Rothbaum began by analyzing the existing IT system landscape and working with managers from production, logistics, IT, R&D, controlling, and other departments to develop a vision for the future. The focus then shifted to the IT systems used in production, with detailed process analyses and interviews being conducted. Based on the catalog of requirements and use cases that had been developed, a call for tenders was issued, followed by the creation of a business case for the final selection of suppliers. Finally, Rothbaum accompanied the process of developing the proof of concept with the system integrator.

Results

Thanks to the trusting and pragmatic cooperation with the experts at Rothbaum, Féron was able to clearly structure and strategically align its IT architecture.

By systematically recording all relevant requirements, we quickly created a shortlist of promising MES providers and swiftly selected the optimal partner for Féron. This partner covers all of the functions that are important to Féron in the standard version – with minimal additional programming effort. It also offers essential submodules such as production data acquisition, scheduling, and warehouse management from a single source. The corporate culture and cooperation on an equal footing also fit perfectly with the company's values.

The IT restructuring supported by Rothbaum unlocked considerable savings potential in direct and indirect areas – an essential foundation for the company's future growth and sustainable profitability.

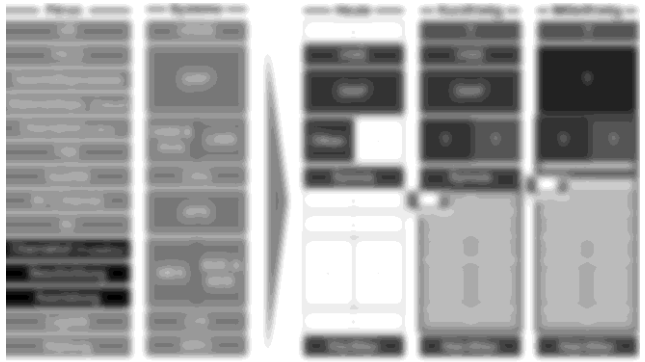
„This project has laid the foundation for our digital future - more professional, more efficient, and ready for strong growth.“

Jean-Marc Vesselle, CEO

Aluminium Féron GmbH & Co. KG

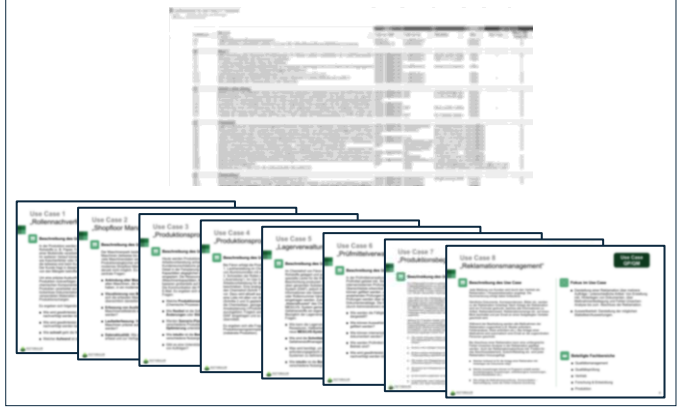
Exemplary insights

Presentation of the future Féron IT system landscape



In all functional areas of Féron, the current IT system landscape was comprehensively analyzed together with those responsible, and forward-looking adjustments were designed on this basis.

Comprehensive list of features & selected use cases



Through numerous interviews, the valuable implicit knowledge of the employees about the business processes was systematically recorded and transferred into a detailed list of functions for the new MES. Supplemented by specific use cases that specify individual functions, this served as a sound basis for the requirements specification for selecting the optimal MES provider.

Business case as the basis for selecting a provider

Finally, a business case was created using the net present value method as a basis for decision-making. This took into account investments in software and hardware implementation, running costs such as license fees, and WLAN and server costs. Savings from increased machine productivity and reduced manual production planning and documentation costs were also included.

> 1,1 million euros
Expected cost savings within 5 years through optimization of setup and downtime for the machine park

> 2.200 hours
Time savings for documentation and manual production planning through operational data collection and advanced planning and scheduling

> 1.500 hours
Time savings for searching and coordination thanks to the warehouse management module

I look forward to your questions!

Philipp Kappus

Business Unit Manager Production

Rothbaum Office Frankfurt

philipp.kappus@rothbaum-consulting.com

+49 151 113 115 22

Rothbaum Consulting Engineers GmbH

E: info@rothbaum-consulting.com
W: www.rothbaum-consulting.com

You can reach our offices as follows:

Hamburg:	+49 40 226 327 20
Frankfurt:	+49 6196 58 668 94
München:	+49 89 413 272 86
Linz:	+43 720 115 885
Basel:	+41 800 838 239