

A whole new view of inventory for GSAB



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The challenge

GSAB, the wholesaler of glazing products and supplies to the glass and construction industry, had a problem. In the past, inventory planning was a highly manual process driven by a complex spreadsheet-based system. This approach meant time consuming manual work which still resulted in sub-optimal inventory levels, difficulties forecasting demand and low service levels for some products.

GSAB identified the problem stemmed from its spreadsheet-based process, and set out to define a new way of working. GSAB established a well-defined, data-driven approach to inventory planning that could work with its Jeeves ERP system. For the first time, inventory was calculated at the SKU-level, and stocking policy parameters were put in place to manage different safety-stock, reorder-point and service levels. EazyStock provided automated demand forecasting, replenishment, and clear visibility of the inventory performance.

The solution

EazyStock was expected to support the following objectives:

- Improve availability of products for delivery.
- Reduce manual work required for inventory planning.
- Reduce excess inventory.
- Provide clear visibility of inventory performance.

To realize the new way of working with inventory management, Jan Kraft, CEO at GSAB selected EazyStock as an add-on application for the Jeeves ERP system. According to Kraft, *“The EazyStock implementation went according to plan.”*

Upgrading from spreadsheet-based inventory management to an automated process saves time and effort for the planning team, with the majority of products managed automatically without requiring manual intervention. Using Management-by-Exception, EazyStock alerts the planning team to any exceptional items that do require manual review and confirmation.

The result

Moving to the new process was straightforward and the value of the application became clear almost immediately. According to Jan Kraft:

“From my perspective, the functionality is excellent. EazyStock is a very advanced tool to keep a high level of service in terms of delivery, and at the same time not have more in stock than demand requires. As a customer, you get a whole new view of inventory and can act proactively to changes in demand for individual articles.”

EazyStock gives GSAB full visibility of inventory, highlighting where there is excess stock and enabling them to take action thus minimizing overall inventory. The system calculates inventory parameters automatically according to the individual service level targets, providing dynamic inventory, safety-stock and reorder levels that are unique to each product and automatically adjust according to demand.

GSAB continue to reap the initial benefits that EazyStock provides and aim to further reduce working capital tied-up in stock and at the same time maintain high service level.

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