



SNA creates competitive manufacturing with AXXOS OEE

In order to maintain competitive manufacturing of hand and garden saws, SNA Europe launched a comprehensive improvement strategy in its Bollnäs factory 2011. Despite involved rebuilding and the replacement of several machines, the factory has succeeded in continuing productivity growth over time with the help of monitoring, flow analyzes with AXXOS OEE and a well-organized improvement strategy.

The Bollnäs factory's success was observed during AXXOS OEE User Days 2017 where SNA Europe was awarded AXXOS Annual Productivity Prize.

"Overall, SNA Europe offers a broad range of tools. Approximately 24,000 products are being sold under the trademarks Bahco and Irimo. Here in Bollnäs we produce 4.4 million hand saws per year, in addition to garden saws and special saws" says Annelie Laitila, Production Manager at the Bollnäs factory.

New product range and streamlined production

The collaboration with AXXOS commenced just prior to the extensive improvement strategy initiation 2011. The underlying reason for this project was to strengthen SNA Europe's position in a competitive industry by introducing a new and improved product range and to create a more efficient manufacturing process.

About SNA Europe

SNA Europe (Industries) is a leading European hand tools manufacturer in the Snap-on Group, a global tool and equipment supplier.

SNA Europe Industries has a total of 10 factories in Europe. The factory located in Bollnäs employs 80 people and produces over 4 million hand saws, marketed under the brand name Bahco, annually.



"Yes, we live in a competitive world and therefore need to constantly improve our products and streamline production. Previously we had several manual processes that wasn't financially viable in the long run. It was time for an update of machines, processes and working methods", says Annelie Laitila.

"Even the production monitoring was previously handled manually", Annelie Laitila continues.

"The operator manually recorded any issues, such as downtime type, in a list physically located by the machines. After that a Continuous Improvement Manager made a compilation of the lists and used the data to create charts. It was not very precise, and it created a lot of extra work. It was often difficult to interpret the charts; what was the biggest downtime type, and when and how many times it occurred."

Better production flows and shorter lead times

With AXXOS OEE the operator logs the downtime type as it occurs. This means that we now get the information real-time and can go through it in detail and take action in our daily morning meetings.

Every morning we monitor the OEE values on the machines and discuss any technical errors. The machines run 24h a day and we have a finished report to review every day.

"In 2013, we started our "Future State" project under the direction of Stefan Halvarsson. The goal of the project includes to create better work flow to reduce internal transportation and in-process materials, as well as shorten our lead times", says Annelie Laitila.

Increased productivity by 14%

In addition to major layout changes, 8 out of 16 larger machines have been replaced during the continuous improvement project in the factory in Bollnäs. Despite the challenges in terms of production downtime and upstart disturbances, productivity increased by 14% from 2013 to 2017.

"The work with the project went really well, largely thanks to AXXOS OEE. We have had a clear picture of which machines have been the problem. A good example is that for one of our newly installed machines, a fully automated labeling cell, we had a lot of start-up problems. The OEE for this machine has increased from 32% to 64%. The increase in OEE continues as we solve the downtime causes we identify with the help of AXXOS OEE", says Stefan Halvarsson, Project Manager.



Annelie Laitila and Stefan Halvarsson receive "AXXOS Productivity Award" from Claes Gunnarsson, AXXOS.

"We would never have been able to go this far, if it had not been for the production staff's patience and dedication throughout our improvement project. It is important that the operators get an opportunity to be involved and feel included in the process," continues Stefan Halvarsson.

AXXOS Productivity Award generated interest from other companies

By implementing AXXOS OEE Visualize in the Bollnäs factory, SNA Europe is now able to monitor the production real-time on displays throughout the factory. Annelie Laitila is generally very pleased with the results of the six-year collaboration and how the improvement project has been implemented.

"Yes, despite considerable changes, no major issues have been encountered that made the process difficult and we have felt a lot of support throughout the journey. AXXOS visited us and we have participated in the AXXOS OEE User Days where we were able to exchange experiences with other users of AXXOS OEE. After we announced that we had been awarded AXXOS Productivity Award on the website, we were contacted by neighboring companies who showed interest in study visits that generated new ideas. That was of course a lot of fun!", says Annelie Laitila, concluding:

"However, we are not ready yet, the improvement project is still ongoing. Among other things, we will replace more machines and, of course, want to increase production, optimize flows and further improve the products. But we are excited to be well on our way thanks to our own expertise combined with improved production monitoring".

AXXOS Industrial Systems has delivered systems for production monitoring, AXXOS OEE for almost 20 years. We help our customers streamline their production by packaging our experience in OEE-systems, LEAN-training and coaching in improvement. AXXOS is part of API-AXXOS, supplying software for reliable and efficient production to 1000 customers in 50 countries.