

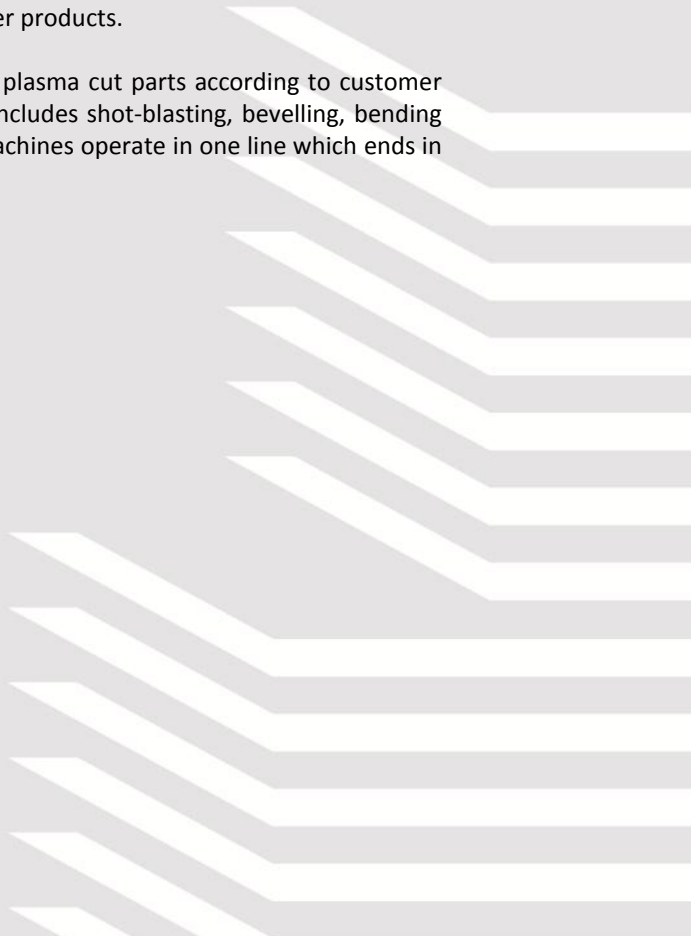
The logo for nestix SSC features the word "nestix" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a green diamond shape integrated into the letter "x". Below "nestix" is the text "SSC" in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a dark blue and green geometric pattern.

Integrated software to control part fabrication and block assembly

Oy Flinkenberg Ab

Oy Flinkenberg Ab is a family-owned steel service center which has successfully served its customers in Finnish industry and business since 1921. The key functions of Flinkenberg are customer service, storage and import, focusing mainly on steel, stainless steels and other products.

Flinkenberg provides laser-, flame- and plasma cut parts according to customer requirements. Their production range includes shot-blasting, bevelling, bending and drilling. Their four flame-cutting machines operate in one line which ends in a bevelling station.





CHALLENGES of Flinkenberg at the beginning of the NESTIX project

The Flinkenberg Steel Service Center was expanding, and existing management solutions and facilities could no longer match the demands of the production. A new production site was under construction in Valkeakoski. The expanding business needed centralized management for efficient production.

Distributed functions

The information flow between the departments of the SSC was challenging. Several IT-systems, applications and manual procedures were used on the production chain, from sales to delivery. The aim was to cover all the Flinkenberg Steel Service Center functions in one IT-system.

What's going on in production?

One of Flinkenberg's objectives was a real-time follow-up of each customer order and each individual part throughout the production chain. Other points of interest for real-time monitoring and controlling were the delivery times, material flow and work queues of each cutting machine and other workstations. On a longer time-span Flinkenberg wanted to follow the utilization of cutting machines, material usage and sales figures from various aspects.

The challenges of storage management

In order to enable continuous production, it is necessary to keep up with the locations of processed parts on-site. The same applies for raw material, remnants and packages of completed products waiting for delivery. Real-time storage management in the middle of busy production was inadequate and troublesome.

Accurate cost for the quotations

Efficient sales requires good tools for accurate cost calculation. The aim for improving cost calculation was to change it so that the time and cost of each work phase is calculated accurately for quotations. In addition, the amount of real material consumption and scrap percentages are very important. Sales tool that co-operate with work preparation tools like the NESTIX solution enables these accurate work estimates.

"We wanted the best solution for the steel service center's production management for our new and modern production facilities. Based on our experience we can say that running production of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without the NESTIX SSC system."

Mikko Puotiniemi
Foreman,
Oy Flinkenberg Ab



RESULTS of the NESTIX project in Flinkenberg

Centralized solution

The project was performed in two phases. First NESTIX took over the production processes from order management to delivery. This made it possible to manage efficient production at the brand new production site, divided in four sections containing seven cutting machines, blasting and other production machinery.

On the second phase the sales, purchase, invoicing and several special functionalities were added to the system. Material management with automated material reserving, inventory, stock data gathering and material value calculation was developed further in close co-operation with Flinkenberg. Now the NESTIX SSC production management system was responsible for all the Flinkenberg Steel Service Center functions at the Valkeakoski site from sales to invoicing and intrastate reporting.

Customer specific features

The project also included the development of customer-specified features. Developing something new is always challenging and obstacles are inevitable. Close co-operation and direct communication with the customer's personnel made it possible to develop a suitable solution for efficient and smooth production management.

Efficient sales and profitable pricing

NESTIX enabled accurate workload estimation for cutting and other work phases. This, combined with exact material usage estimation, meant accurate cost calculation.

The sales team is able to see an accurate balance for quotations, the availability of material on the due date and the current workload information. This makes the sales process quick and profitable. The approved sales order is moved to production with a single click. After delivery, it is possible to compare the sales order with the results for fine-tuning the sales estimates.





Control block production
Shorten throughput time, more blocks
Save material
Reduce person-hours
Utilize machines efficiently
Improve quality

Real-time control and data storage

The NESTIX SSC made it possible to control the real-time production flow, a specific order and parts in details, the status of work-stations and stock, etc. The intermediate storage places for each part, remnant and plate are maintained in the system. Whether the user is working on sales, work preparation, production or delivery, he has all the required information available in the equivalent NESTIX module. The situation in production can change rapidly but information on the changes is available for the responsible personnel, which makes it possible to react immediately.

Tools for business development

NESTIX gathers data from all the material events and work phases. Therefore, there is plenty of history data available for top management for predicting the future and planning new investments. The quotation and order history, when compared to production history, gives Flinkenberg valuable information for planning future business.

Future

In order to keep up with the high demands of steel service industry, Flinkenberg Steel Service Center and NESTIX have continued their successful co-operation by adding new advanced features.

“NESTIX has enabled an effortless way to keep track of the current stock material values based on purchases and material consumption. With this and the help of accurate work time estimations, NESTIX has made it possible to make sales at a competitive price. The sales staff know the exact covering, which has made it easier to do profitable business.”

There is no gap between sales and production or between production and invoicing, since all the functionalities are covered under one system - NESTIX. This one-for-all solution has proved to be successful for us.”

Pasi Närvänen
Department Manager,
Oy Flinkenberg Ab