

**EXPERT
INTERVIEW**

Photo: Christof Industries

DIGITAL PROGRESS TRACKING

PROJECTS ON TRACK

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Christof Industries Austria specializes in plants and waste solutions. Its services include the planning, construction, and servicing of production plants. In particular, mechanical and electrical assembly are among the company's core competencies. Christof Industries pursues the goal of a closed-loop economy – all industries should be able to work efficiently, cleanly, and waste-free.



Projects benefit from a streamlined site management. The suitable digital tool supports this. We talked about the solution that Christof Industries uses for this. Find out what Kolb Richard, IT Application Engineer, Andricic Toni, Project Scheduler, and Siegfried Söll, Site Manager, have to say about Insite LMS and the tracking of time and site progress.



„We transitioned from Excel lists to Insite LMS to centralize our data. This improved project efficiency and made information more accessible for both onsite and back-office users.“

RICHARD KOLB
IT Application Engineer
Christof Industries Austria GmbH

HOW DID THE USE OF INSITE LMS COME ABOUT?

Richard Kolb: At the beginning of 2019, we wanted to move away from using Excel lists on construction sites. We aimed to simplify and standardize how we handle deviations and reporting. Additionally, we introduced time tracking and monitored site progress more effectively.

Toni Andricic: “Logistics” was the area that started it all. As some customers and suppliers were using Insite LMS, we were already entering the data required for logistics anyway. So why not benefit from it ourselves? An experienced site manager, Siegfried Söll, successfully used Insite LMS in an initial test project. Shortly afterward, we used the tool with a partner in a major joint project with around 150 users because there had previously been documentation problems. It quickly became clear to us: Insite LMS makes a lot of things easier when it comes to logistics!

WAS THERE ANY RESISTANCE?

Siegfried Söll: At the beginning, some people seemed a bit defensive. Some felt uncomfortable because they thought they were being monitored. But as soon as people got to grips with it, the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages. At first, the project managers could use the solution if they wanted to. A few said, “We don’t have time for that!” However, personnel on construction sites change, and more and more fans of the tool, who really wanted to have it back, brought it to other projects. Looking back, it didn’t take long for it to be well received by everyone; the introduction was more of a sure-fire success. Insite LMS is now used almost everywhere in mechanical assembly..

HOW DID TRACKING VIA INSITE LMS COME ABOUT?

Richard Kolb: At a certain point, we recognized the need to further enhance the quality of the documentation in our projects. Naturally, this improvement extended to our time tracking practices as well. Since we were already using Insite LMS and had previously employed its time tracking functionality, it quickly became clear that we would continue to use Insite LMS to record and analyze working hours. We aimed to move away from Excel lists on construction sites. Now, all data is integrated into Insite LMS, enabling everyone on the construction site and in the offices to access and utilize the same data, thus facilitating better project management..

HOW DOES CHRISTOF INDUSTRIES IMPLEMENT TIME TRACKING?

Richard Kolb: The Insite LMS Time app is deployed on almost all of our construction sites to record working hours for the entire workforce. For this purpose, cell phones are set up as terminals at the access points. For example, on larger construction sites, there are seven terminals serving approximately 200 people. The Time app, running on these terminals, allows individuals to clock in and out using their QR code. The data collected by the app is then transferred to Insite LMS, where it is synchronized with our ERP system, including clock-in and clock-out times and the project number. All required reports are automatically generated once a week.

For personnel who often switch construction sites or work in areas without cellular reception, we also offer the option to clock in and out on their own cell phones. They can enter times and project numbers in the "Workdays" section on their phone. This data is exported

DIGITAL TRACKING – IT’S ABOUT TIME!

ted and processed in the same manner as the data from the fixed terminals on the construction sites.

Toni Andricic: As already mentioned, employees only need their QR code to check in and out. In the beginning, we created our own access cards with special foil paper. However, as the cards were often lost, we now use normal paper—each employee inserts their QR code into the back of their employee card. Alternatively, people use their cell phones and have placed the QR code there (e.g., as wallpaper).

Siegfried Söll: The time tracking solution works excellently, though initially, digital tracking made some feel monitored. Despite this, digital time tracking is essential and simplifies many processes. Everyone has now adjusted to it.

SITE PROGRESS IS CRUCIAL IN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION. HOW DID YOU TRACK IT BEFORE INSITE LMS?

Toni Andricic: We always define work packages for each construction site, specifying the planned hours along with a target start and end date. We manage this in Microsoft Project and Microsoft Excel. Before Insite LMS, we also relied on these documents to track construction progress.

HOW DO YOU TRACK SITE PROGRESS NOW?

Toni Andricic: We’re using Insite LMS’s Site Progress module and its Time App to monitor our first major project. Here’s how it works now:

1. As mentioned, we define work packages for each project with the respective planned hours and start/end times. This basic data is transferred to Insite LMS via an Excel interface.
2. The hours spent on these work packages are booked in Insite LMS at the end of each working day.
3. At the end of each week, the technical progress is evaluated with the respective supervisor or section construction manager using checklists in Insite LMS.
4. Insite LMS generates practical S-curves from this data at the end of the week, including:

The comparison of TARGET-ACTUAL hours for technical progress, also visually displayed, is available for each trade and for the entire project.

The overall progress is determined by evaluating each trade, with each work package contributing according to its share of the total planned hours. Weekly, we can quickly and, if necessary, in detail, identify any deviations from the plan.

The S-curve representation, which we can generate at the push of a button through Insite LMS, significantly improves the visualization of site progress compared to our previous method using Microsoft Excel. Most importantly, it also includes the actual hours worked.



Foto: Christof Industries

WHICH OTHER APPS DO YOU USE ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE?

Toni Andricic: On site, we rely on Insite LMS. For scheduling, we also use Microsoft Project. Occasionally, we also use project-specific apps according to customer specifications. However, many contractors already use Insite LMS anyway.

SITE PROGRESS: WE JUST LOVE S-CURVES!



Insite LMS digitizes site progress tracking. The platform works with construction progress elements with 1-x activities, each of which can be evaluated individually (practical sliders). The overall progress can be calculated from this data and used in visualizations of target-actual comparisons, e.g., in reports and dashboards..

Siegfried Söll: With Insite LMS, progress tracking has definitely become simpler and clearer. That's a good thing! On the one hand, we have an obligation to our customers to be able to demonstrate the progress of construction work. On the other hand, these weekly overviews also provide us with a meaningful and well-founded presentation for checking site progress. That is important to us.

Toni Andricic: From my experience, I can say that progress tracking has definitely become easier. The decisive factor for me:

- The reports and analyses that are possible with Insite LMS.
- The clarity! Everything is much clearer than with Excel and less error-prone.
- The ease of use.

Siegfried Söll: We all know that a graphical representation is simply received more quickly.

Richard Kolb: Yes, the reports and visualizations are very well received. The management also appreciates this.

Toni Andricic: Especially the S-curves, because they allow you to see at a glance on the dashboard: 'Where is my project?'



SUCCESSFULLY EXCEL-FREE



Insite LMS outperforms other products in data processing, providing clear insights into project progress and optimization potential.

TONI ANDRICIC
Project Scheduler
Christof Industries Austria GmbH

WHAT'S NEXT IN YOUR DIGITALIZATION JOURNEY?

Richard Kolb : We are currently reevaluating our system landscape, focusing particularly on the solutions employed at our head office. On site, however, we will definitely continue to use Insite LMS. We plan to integrate it even more thoroughly and extend its use to additional areas. For instance, we are currently testing the tool management module.

YOUR CONCLUSION AFTER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS WITH INSITE LMS?

Toni Andricic: Each colleague only does their part in Insite LMS: the logistician does their packages, the supervisor the deviations, the workers clock in and so on. All these things have to be done in our industry anyway. All in all, the system always has all the data for a comprehensive project assessment, which we really appreciate.

Richard Kolb: Insite LMS saves us time on an ongoing basis and everything is automatically well documented: Construction personnel spot a deviation, take a photo at the job site, and the actual deviation is maintained in the office. Most use cases are completed

CHRISTOF INDUSTRIES

With a 360° portfolio, Christof Industries offers the international industry and energy sector a range of services that covers the entire life cycle of industrial plants. The company pursues one goal: sustainable and efficient plants for its customers.

15 Industries

4,500+ Projects

50+ Years of Experience

1 App
App on site: Insite LMS

with just a few clicks and all data is always in one system. None of this is possible via Excel.

What I see as a major advantage is the traceability that the system guarantees in all modules. If I ask myself: "How did this value come about?", I can look up the history. This is not possible in Excel. Insite LMS is also absolutely practical for me in administrative terms—we can create most of the reports ourselves using the Report Designer, for example.

In short, I've never met anyone who wasn't a fan of the system—and that's with more than 300 people I've shown the tool to.

Sigfried Söll: I'm doing great with Insite LMS! The support back then, at the start, was great. That's when we set it up the way we use it now. Using the software is self-explanatory. Most colleagues, even older ones,

have accepted the new solution well. They were even relieved because they saw the added value.

Thank you for the interview and the successful collaboration.

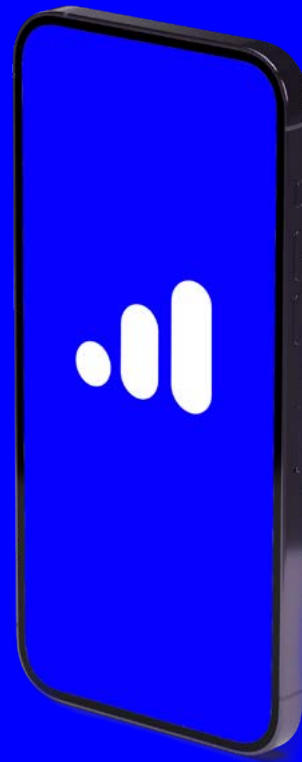


Insite LMS is the leading solution for digitalization in industrial plant construction

With Insite LMS, plant engineering reaches a new dimension. Collaborate seamlessly across company boundaries on a single platform, access real-time information anytime, and manage global projects with confidence.

Insite LMS is specifically designed for international industrial plant construction projects.

The platform covers a wide range of applications, including project logistics, site management, material tracking, and time tracking for employees and subcontractors.



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