

Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava

Information Technology for Practice 2013

IT SUPPORT FOR SALES MANAGEMENT IN THE COMPANY OKD A. S. AS A MEANS TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS

Ing. Roman Danel, Ph.D.¹ & David Kupka²

¹ VŠB-TUO, FMG, Institute of Economics and Control Systems
² OKD a.s., Sales Department
Czech Republic



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OKD a. s., Czech Republic

- Main (and only) producer of black coal in the Czech Republic
- About twelve thousand employees
- 4 mines active (2013)
- 11 million tons of black coal per year
- <u>www.okd.cz/en</u>



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Hard Coal – Quality Parameters

There are two types of black coal:

• coking coal

• Ash content A^d, water content W^r, dilatation b and swelling index SI, heating value Q^r, sulphur content S^d

• energetic coal

 Ash content A^d, water content W^r, heating value Q^r, sulphur content S^d

Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Coke

- **Coke** is solid carbon residue produced from lowash, low-sulphur hard coal, from which the volatile components are removed in ovens with limited oxygen inlet and temperatures around 1000 °C
- In metal production coke is used as the source of heat





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Main purpose of the coal preparation plant is to meet **customer demands quality parameters**

- ash content
- water content





Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO History of the Quality Control

- In **the eighties** management based on experience and laboratory measurement
- **Early 90th** computer use for recording
- 1996-1999 sales control systems with on-line measurement of quality parameters (Darkov, Lazy, ČSM, Dukla)
- 2002-2005 comprehensive information system called Odbyt BOS (name of the OKD's sales company)



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Our cooperation with OKD

- Sales control system of ČSM Coal Preparation Plant (1996-1997)
- Sales Control System of Lazy Coal Preparation Plant (1997)
- Study the development of control systems (1999)
- Quality Control System in Darkov Coal Mine (1999, innovation in 2003, 2005, 2011)
- Coal Preparation Plant Control Systems (1997-2001)
- Sales Control System "Odbyt BOS" (2003-2005)
- Analysis of current state of systems (December 2012)



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Local on-line quality control of loading

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Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Darkov Quality Control

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Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Benefits

- Integration of information flow
- Unify management activities for all mines
- Centralization of sale control (saving jobs)
- Support for ISO
- On-line control of quality parameters (counting trends using continual ashmeters)
- Archive of historical data



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Best Practices

- Simplicity of outputs
- Terminals "look" of output is preferred than "clickable windows-style" applications
- Using standard IT technologies to ensure flexibility and easy maintenance
- Fault-tolerant solution



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Current Problems

- Some systems still contain software created in technologies that are obsolete today (e.g. applications in Visual Basic 6, which is a technology that has not have any support for several years);
- The coal preparation control system of the previous generation is still operated (Lazy, with VMS operating system, 1997)
- Requirement for access to the system via the Internet (it is problematic to meet this requirement in older technologies located in operations);



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO Current Problems

- some subcontractors supply measuring systems with PC with the latest operating systems and software technologies, which causes problems with their integration to "out-of-date" technologies based systems
- End-user computing (Excel)



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO End User Computing (EUC)

- Habitual
- EUC due to unfamiliarity with the system
- EUC due to incorrect analysis (missing outputs)
- incorrectly set access rights
- EUC and IS data request processing time users need faster response
- Necessary EUC



Faculty of Mining and Geology VŠB–TUO New Development and Research

- Utilization of RFID for the identification of materials, machines, products, and support for logistic processes
- Utilization of neural networks for control support
- 3D visualization of technological processes



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Thank you for attentions...

roman.danel @vsb.cz