

## Application story

Industry: **Assembling**

Products: **Modular PLC / HMI / MES-IT**

# Operating data: Directly from the shop floor into the control system

It is not just large companies, but also medium-sized production companies that are continuously looking for ways to improve the control and efficiency of their in-house production and business processes, to keep up with international competition. The availability of production data is becoming more and more important since these data can be used to identify disruptive factors so that appropriate action can be taken in order to counteract them.

### **The challenge: improve and increase effectiveness**

Assistec Münster GmbH & Co. KG, a provider of total solutions for control technology and switchgear cabinet construction, decided to install production data acquisition (PDA) in order to improve the planning and control of its business processes. It was of critical importance to the company to be able to collect order data centrally and evaluate it at a later date, thus maintaining a good overall view of ongoing operations, incoming orders and individual process stages. This would allow resource planning to be improved and the workshop to be utilised more effectively.

### **The solution: an MES system for small companies**

When testing various PDA solutions, Assistec discovered that there were no suitable products on the market that offered a cost-effective solution for small companies. Consequently, Assistec decided to create its own PDA and use high-performance industrial components from Mitsubishi Electric as hardware. These included the MES interface module (MES-IT), the MELSEC iQ Platform, a touch panel, an Ethernet module, input and output modules and several relays. The MES-IT is normally used within a production environment as a simple and reliable link for enabling the direct exchange of data between production and the management control system for tracking production, as well as for quality management and quality inspection.



**“As far as we are concerned, it makes no difference whether we are talking about products or production processes. Why shouldn't the MES-IT module also be used for planning and controlling a production process such as the one carried out in our workshop? With other manufacturers, we would have had to do mental acrobatics with the programming. That is what made the plug-and-play principle of the MES-IT module the ideal choice for us.”**

Rainer Mensing,  
Managing Director,  
Assistec Münster GmbH & Co. KG

### **Result: Successful and easy integration**

Assistec, as a Mitsubishi Electric system integrator, recognised the potential of MES-IT and how it could be used for the company's own purposes. The programmable logic controller (PLC) could be directly and simply connected to its own IT environment, thus reducing problems with intermediate PCs.