



Professional inventory management with support from Gordian

One step away from ease and total control

Gasunie is an energy network operator. They manage and maintain the infrastructure for large-scale transport and storage of gas in the Netherlands and the northern part of Germany. They make use of an underground network of pipelines and various installations that is regularly maintained. The demand of spare parts for this kind of maintenance is difficult to predict which makes inventory management complex. In 2016, Gasunie started to improve inventory control of spare parts. For this they made use of Gordian's parts optimization services. This service supports the inventory management of Gasunie in different ways within the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). With the help of this method, Gasunie took a major step towards professional stock management.



From firefighting to "being in control"

In particular the Planning phase of the PDCA cycle helps an organization to get in control of their stock. At the start of the project, the stock managers were asked a great many questions regarding emergencies and (alleged) errors. After the parameters were structurally maintained and updated according to Gordian's methodology, the number of questions and complaints decreased and the department gradually came to rest. The stock managers could then actually spend their time on stock management. During this period, the demand pattern within Gasunie also changed significantly as the number of modification projects decreased. The methodology that Gordian introduced, enabled Gasunie to absorb this change and limit the amount of stock.



Increase in performance

As a result of this project, the stock availability has increased in a short period while the stock has hardly increased at all. In fact, after a few months, inventory actually declined, as inventory from parts, that are less required, stock decreased. On top of that many order sizes have increased, reducing the number of purchase order lines to almost 50%.



To measure is to know

After completing the initial project phase and periodically updating parameters, Gordian introduced the Check and Act phase. In addition to viewing the KPIs, the emphasis lies on analysing the miss-performance. This analysis made clear what the causes were and therefore Gasunie was able to take targeted action to further improve performance. For example, discussions have started between the departments of procurement and logistics to better align processes and ways of thinking. Also initiatives have started to improve the requirement date of material reservations. With a minor process change, Gasunie - with some support from Gordian - has come to a rest and managed to get control over the inventory control, thereby saving time. This time is used to further improve and save even more. The logistics department is now able to tailor its inventory strategy to the needs and wishes of the other Gasunie departments.



"Most of the work was done by Gasunie itself. Gordian just initiated and supported when momentum diminished."

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