

Project Note

Project management: Development of a new automatic lathe

A manufacturer of automatic lathes was reengineering its product lines. Zühlke provided the project manager for one of the development projects until a new person could take on this responsibility following a transfer of expertise.

Task

Tornos SA in Moutier, Switzerland, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-end automatic lathes. Over the next five years, the company plans to completely reengineer its product lines to meet various customer requirements and take advantage of a unified product platform. Tornos provided the project manager for two of these projects. The third development project was coordinated by an experienced Zühlke project manager until the customer was able to fill the position in-house.

Implementation

In a brief yet intensive process, the Zühlke project manager oriented himself on the state of the entire project and became acquainted with the project team and environment. One of his most important tasks at the start was to take an active part in positioning the three product families and in defining the overarching product platform. He worked with the management, the product management and R&D. Together with the project managers, he drew up the specifications for the planned product lines and set up the project plan. The company had an internal and an external development team work out a broad range of ideas for the new product generation. The project manager coordinated this collaboration. After an extensive transfer of expertise, a newly hired project manager at Tornos took over as operational manager of the project. The Zühlke expert continued working in the background until the new project manager could run the project unassisted.



Technical Data

Method:
Product Development
Process

Customer benefits

- Overall project plan and development documents were produced efficiently thanks to the Zühlke project manager's methodical approach.
- Drawing on his years of experience with multidisciplinary projects, the Zühlke engineer was masterful in his coordination of the two development teams.
- The customer's new project manager benefited from the Zühlke experts open and clearly structured transfer of expertise.

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