

Progress Software Development GmbH, 39042 Brixen, Italy

Digital Transformation at UBAB: Leveraging software for precast efficiency

UBAB Ulricehamns Betong AB, a prominent player in the precast industry in Sweden, has embarked on a transformative journey towards digitalization by implementing the software solutions ERPbos, ahead, and mebos from Progress Group. This initiative, driven by the need for efficiency and modernization, has revolutionized UBAB's operations, bringing significant benefits across various facets of their day-to-day operations.

UBAB's history

Founded in 1990 with just six employees, UBAB has grown exponentially over the past few decades. Today, the company boasts a workforce of 410, reflecting its substantial expansion and success in the precast industry. This growth is also marked by strategic acquisitions, with UBAB acquiring the Dala plant in 2012 and the Örs plant in 2020. Since January 2023 all three plants are part of the CRH group and are delivering all over the Nordics.

The three plants: UBAB, Örs, and Dala

UBAB operates three specialized plants: the UBAB plant produces a wide variety of precast products, the Örs plant

focuses on walls and retaining walls, and the Dala plant specializes in various flooring and walls. Collectively, these plants cover nearly every aspect of building-related precast products, excluding hollowcore slabs. This diversification allows UBAB to offer a comprehensive range of products to their customers.

The drive for digitalization

The journey towards digitalization began with UBAB engaging a consultant company for a comprehensive overhaul of their IT infrastructure. Through extensive interviews with management and employees, it became evident that digitalization was essential for maintaining industry competitiveness and addressing labor challenges. An advanced ERP system was identified as the basis of this transformation.

Selecting the right ERP system

In 2021, UBAB conducted a detailed pre-study to evaluate various precast ERP systems. ERPbos from Progress Group emerged as the most suitable choice due to its extensive capabilities and the professional support. UBAB valued Progress Group as a supplier due to their size, ensuring long-



UBABs plants are all part of CRH Group since 2023



UBAB's stationary production

term collaboration and the availability of technical consultants. Additionally, Progress Group offers a standardized system adapted to optimally support precast best practices, a clear roadmap for future developments, and extensive testing in their own plant, making it an ideal partner for UBAB. Both plants, UBAB and Örs, use software from the Progress Group, and the third plant, Dala, will start using it in 2025.

Optimizing long bed production with ahead

One of the biggest improvements was achieved with the introduction of the ahead software in the planning of long bed production. Previously managed with AutoCAD the process was cumbersome and time-consuming. By transitioning to ahead, UBAB has streamlined the planning process, making it intuitive and rule based. This not only simplifies training for new employees but also consolidates multiple systems into one, enhancing efficiency and reducing not only the likelihood of errors but also the time it takes to perform the planning itself.

Enhancing workflow with mobile integration

The integration of the mebos mobile app has been a game-changer for UBAB. Used for storage, molding, casting controls, and production updates, mebos provides real-time insight into the production state. This transparency allows management and supervisors to monitor progress accurately and address any issues promptly. The app also facilitates defect management, stock adjustments, material feedback, and warehouse operations, significantly reducing paper usage and improving the overall workflow.



Stressing of towers and poles

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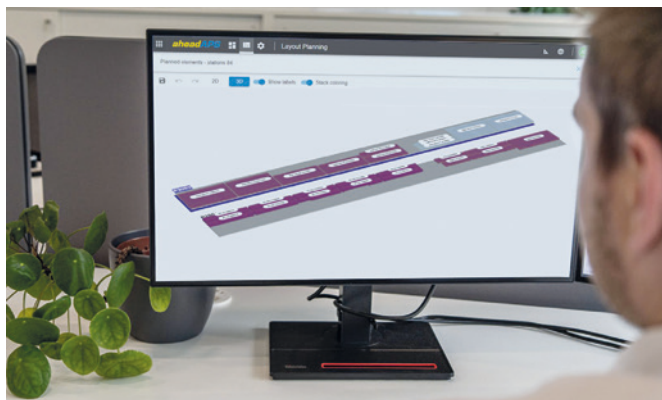




The now digitalized production is more effective with a higher quality of the final products.

“The collaboration with Progress Group during and after the implementation of ERPbos has been highly beneficial. Progress’s consultants provided valuable insights, helping UBAB find optimal solutions even when it required rethinking initial approaches. The use of ERPbos in Progress’s own plant ensured that many processes were already tested, which provided UBAB with a reliable and efficient system”, so Marcus Nilson, IT Manager at UBAB Ulricehamns Betong AB. The digital transformation at UBAB has yielded numerous benefits:

- **Increased efficiency**
With ERPbos and ahead, UBAB has streamlined its production planning and execution, reducing reliance on outdated systems and minimizing manual intervention.
- **Enhanced transparency**
The mebos app provides real-time updates on production status, enabling better decision-making and quicker response times.

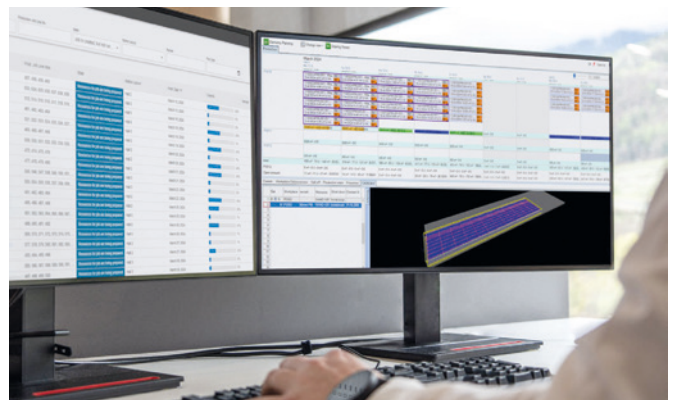


Production planning on a daily basis in aheadAPS and optimal layout planning for stationary production



UBAB’s buildingproject called Lundbypark, 166 new cooperative apartments in Gothenburg

- **Reduced paperwork**
Digital tools have replaced much of the paper-based processes, leading to a more sustainable and efficient operation.
- **Improved training and usability**
Systems like ahead offer intuitive interfaces and rule-based guidelines, simplifying and shorten training for new employees.



ERPbos supports a wide range of processes, ensuring that UBAB can manage everything from offers to deliveries within a single system

- **Comprehensive integration**

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Future prospects

UBAB's digitalization journey is ongoing. Future plans include expanding the use of the mebos app for handling repair orders and digitalizing delivery notes. Additionally, UBAB aims to fully implement stack planning and other advanced features, further enhancing their production capabilities.

The implementation of ERPbos, ahead, and mebos at UBAB represents a significant step towards modernizing their precast plant operations. By embracing digital tools and processes, UBAB has positioned itself as a leader in the industry, ready to meet future challenges with increased efficiency, transparency, and sustainability. The ongoing developments and future plans promise even greater improvements, ensuring that UBAB remains at the forefront of precast production technology. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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