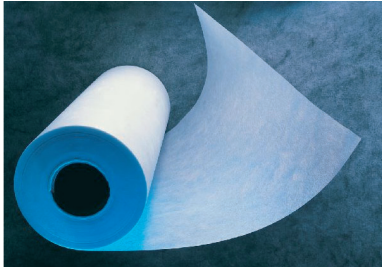


Case: Ahlstrom Glassfibre



Ahlstrom is a global leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of high performance fiber-based materials. Ahlstrom's 5,700 employees serve customers via sales offices and production facilities in more than 20 countries on six continents. In 2005, Ahlstrom's net sales amounted to EUR 1.55 billion. Ahlstrom's share is listed on the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

Increasing production capacity and efficiency – base for future growth

The simulation project was made in connection with the enlargement of Ahlstrom Glassfibre's plant in Mikkeli. The old production space had become too small for Ahlstrom's future growth. The capacity of the current machinery was not sufficient and the lack of space was making it difficult to handle all the transportations involved in the production. The question was how to optimize the production space and the usage of the existing resources. One big issue to increase safety in the plant was to separate the forklift and personnel routes and minimize all the crossing points they had.

SW-Development participated in the layout planning and brainstorming. The target of this work was to radically increase production efficiency and safety of the plant. New even radical layouts were tested and verified by simulation.

Simulation offered a safe, new way to explore different layout possibilities and working methods. Current and future situations in the plant were simulated, analyzed and compared. The results from the different simulations gave new perspective for the people involved in the project and showed that it is possible to make transportations and working smoother and at the same time radically increase the efficiency of the plant.

Actions towards new layout and more efficient working methods started when the enlargement of the old production space was completed in fall 2006.

Further information:

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