



## case: **Ovako Bar Oy Ab Imatra**



### **Easy production planning and increasing efficiency with PES**

Ovako is a leading European long special steel products company. The production covers low alloy steels and carbon steels in the form of bars, wire rod, tubes and rings.

(Ovako's total net sales in 2006 were around EUR 1.4 billion. Company employs 4,300 people at 16 production sites and several sales companies in Europe and the USA. Total steel production is 2 million tons a year.

The goal of the software project was to build a Planning Efficiency System (PES) for more efficient production planning to Ovako Bar Oy Ab. The project involved Ovako bar division in Imatra and the heat treatment oven lines in the plant.

PES offers an optimal tool for the production planner to create effective sequences of steel bar batches for the ovens. Different kind of steels have different heating times and temperatures which enforces to leave gaps between two different sequences. These necessary gaps are easily minimized with PES.

The Ovako PES includes SW-ProOpt module which calculates the size of the gaps and guides user to move a sequence to its optimal place in the production plan. The production planner Petri Oravuo from Ovako says: It is just impossible to create ineffective production plans with PES!

The PES includes also simulation model of the heat treatment ovens in the plant. When the modified production plan is run through the simulation model, it calculates finishing times for different sequences and production planner knows when it will be possible to transfer the steel bars ahead.

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