



Case Study:

TOPLAS

THE BEST ALLY
FOR GROWING
TOGETHER



The Belgian company Toplas NV relies on Lantek technology to optimize its processes and increase its efficiency

Working in collaboration with Lantek, the family owned, Belgian company Toplas NV has been working hard to modernize and optimize its management and production processes using Lantek's Integra system, which is designed specifically for the sheet metal and structural steel industry, to provide the technological backbone for this long term project. Specializing in the supply, cutting, welding and fabrication of steel structures and components, Toplas chose to work in partnership with Lantek to automate and integrate its principal processes to provide a swifter and more efficient response to its growing market. Its rating?

lantek



| Case Study

“Lantek is a supplier which we can grow with. Our aim was to increase our capacity and quality when responding to customers’ needs. The impact of the Lantek project has been very positive,” explains Frank Geerits, the second-generation Head of Toplas NV



At the end of the '80s, Laurent Geerits founded the Toplas NV company, initially specializing in the manufacturing of steel structures. In just a few years he experienced rapid growth that led him to move his first factory to an 8,000 m² plant in the Belgian city of Bree (Limburg) and to diversify its product and service offerings. Toplas NV is now an important supplier of steel parts and structures to fabrication and construction companies throughout Belgium and the Netherlands. The company's philosophy: constantly invest in machinery and technology to differentiate us from our competitors.

To achieve its aims of continual improvement, Toplas NV contacted Lantek, the international leader in the development and marketing of comprehensive CAD/CAM/ERP solutions for the sheet metal and structural steel industry. Together they developed a schedule of improvements and planned its implementation in four phases: planning, assessment of specific client needs and personalized customization, implementation within the client's processes, and provision of the support structures necessary for installation and operation.

Specifically, Lantek has provided Toplas with a comprehensive solution, supported by the Lantek Integra platform, which provides tools such as Lantek Expert, its CAD/CAM solution for the automatic the programming of sheet metal cutting machines and Lantek Flex3d, for the production of steel contours and pre-fabricated structures. With these CAD/CAM software systems Toplas can manage its entire production from a single system, irrespective of the number of machines and processes integrated into its production cycle.

"With the solutions developed by Lantek, our processes have become much more efficient. This translates into cost savings, a reduction in production cycle times and an increase in productivity," emphasizes Frank Geerits. He is very positive about Lantek's offering, "It is a comprehensive and integrated solution for the production and management process. The software allows for total control and synchronization over the storage of our products within our production system. Another benefit for us is that part nesting was almost completely manual and no longer met the requirements and expansion needs that our clients demanded of us. Lantek has solved this speeding up production and increasing material utilization."

All machines managed by a single system

In the case of Toplas, which has Peddinghaus and MGM machines, all of its programming has now been integrated into the Lantek platform. The performance of each machine can be maximized and any changes that need to be made during the production process can be managed from a single software package, greatly increasing flexibility.

Lantek provides a competitive advantage to its customers by using its expertise in the specific technologies required by each of the numerous machines on the international market for the benefit of its clients. To keep abreast of the latest developments within the industry, the company prides itself on continually updating and adapting its software to take best advantage of the innovations launched by machinery manufacturers.

For Toplas, Lantek's highly responsive development program, which keeps it at the forefront of the sheet metal and structural steel industry for cutting profiles, sheet and tubes, was a major factor in its selection. In particular, the profile cutting capabilities of the Lantek system were very important. The software has helped to reduce the need for investment and has helped to lower fixed costs. This results in many benefits including improved material utilization, shorter cycle times for one-off components, reduction in the need to store partially manufactured products and an increase in the quality of the final part.

More efficient: lower costs and higher productivity

In addition to implementing Lantek's CAD/CAM solutions, Toplas also installed the Lantek Integra ERP solution, which has been designed specifically for the industry. The system facilitates the management of the wide range of data associated with its products. This includes designs, structures, storage, measurements, costs, selling prices, purchasing prices, manufacturing operations, management of clients, orders and invoices.

The differences between Lantek Integra and a generic ERP solution are immense. The two advantages most often highlighted by Lantek's clients are its capacity to automate processes when integrating with a company's pre-existing systems, and the adaptation of the system to the company's size, so that small companies are in a position to compete on an equal footing with larger ones.

The tools developed by Lantek fully cover all areas of a company's needs including 3D component design, the generation of CNC files for each type and model of machine, automated programming, and stock control and administration for a range of departments. In addition, the company's solutions can be integrated into third-party management systems. "The impact of the Lantek project has been very positive. With it, we have improved the automation of processes, their integration and their speed.," says Frank Geerits.

According to the CEO of Toplas, Lantek's 'perfect' relationship with the Belgian firm has attracted the attention of Geerits Constructies, which specializes in the construction of industrial, residential and commercial buildings, and renovation projects.







FACT SHEET

COMPANY NAME	TOPLAS NV
ACTIVITY/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	Toplas NV is specialized in supplying steel and stainless semis. Profile and plate cutting are their core business as well as the welding of all kinds of structures and components.
LANTEK SOLUTION	CAM 2D CAM 3D Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Sales management Purchases management Warehouse management Manufacturing management Workshop Manager
LICENSES	1 Lantek Flex3d 3 Lantek Expert 4 Lantek Manager 3 Lantek Integra
MACHINES	1 PEDDINGHAUS / FDB 2500 1 PEDDINGHAUS PCD 1100 1 MGM / Ms100b