

# Trip planning determines production

## Delivering Nobilia kitchens just-in-time with PTV Intertour

Every day Nobilia produces about 1,300 kitchens which are directly loaded into the trailer. So, trip planning determines the production process because the trip's start date automatically defines the deadline for the delivery of Nobilia-kitchens.

"It is absolutely necessary that everything fits perfectly," says Dr. Gordon Bartels, member of the Executive Board of Nobilia J. Stickling GmbH & Co. KG. He adds, "As a matter of fact, we do not want to leave anything to chance. Therefore, we are relying on PTV's trip planning solution."

User: **Nobilia** is one of the leading manufacturers of individually assembled kitchens in Europe. At 32 terminals trailers are waiting to be loaded with the kitchens. 170 drivers, 83 vehicles, 261 trailers, about 80 trips per day; also, shipping containers and forwarding agents are used for worldwide transport.

Task: Tailor-made trip planning, increased transparency within the production process and improved utilisation of vehicle capacity.

Solution: Trip planning with PTV Intertour linked to an SAP system.

### Optimising trips and connecting systems

PTV Intertour's trip planning software automatically takes account of individual delivery dates, customer's depot opening hours and capacities. Additionally, it checks production and vehicle capacities. As a result, it is possible to better control the entire production chain.

The interface to the SAP system was another important factor because the SAP technology, PTV Intertour and Transflow's onboard computers were all introduced at the same time.

### From the incoming order to on-time delivery

The customer receives an order confirmation stating the exact week of delivery. PTV Intertour plans all trips one week before the actual delivery. When trip planning and the date of delivery are fixed, all parts are loaded one day before the actual dispatch. The trips are transferred to the production control department so that the planner knows the delivery dates for each order including terminals and dates for loading.

The production scheduling process of kitchen furniture now starts by manufacturing all customer orders on consignment. Therefore, the kitchen dealer is informed of exact delivery dates.



Nobilia production facilities

After loading the furniture, the driver scans the vehicle and trailer as well as his ID badge. The data is sent to Nobilia's computing centre via WLAN. First, all data is checked for correctness and is then transferred to the driver's onboard computer. Scanning ensures that every customer receives the kitchen furniture he ordered. At the end of the trip the onboard computer sends the current data to the SAP system to generate delivery confirmations.

### Integrated solution for furniture industry

"We have considerably improved on-time delivery performance. Moreover, we have been able to maximise utilisation of vehicles and to plan more one-day trips. That's substantially cheaper than trips lasting several days. Increased vehicle fleet productivity is the result. Additionally, the unloading scan has reduced the number of wrong deliveries by over 30%. We are now able to respond to complaints much quicker and also have better tools for analysis and statistics," says Klaus Hartmann, Nobilia's vehicle fleet manager.

Dr. Bartels adds, "This advanced system offers great competitive advantages by simultaneously increasing customer retention. This is also due to our accurate deliveries. Nobilia kitchens stand for reliable deliveries and efficient services."