

# **ROB=EX** Scheduler

*LET'S MAKE PLANS*

Production scheduling for manufacturing companies



## **ROB-EX Scheduler - planning your production**

ROB-EX Scheduler is a standard software solution dedicated to production scheduling. The Scheduler provides:

- a comprehensive, graphic overview of production
- versatile and efficient tools for fast and flexible scheduling

ROB-EX Scheduler is used successfully by planners in production companies of various sizes and from a broad range of industrial sectors across the world. ROB-EX is a modular solution and can be configured to meet the requirements of production scheduling in both order-based, project-based or process-based productions.

Since 1999, ROB-EX Scheduler users have reported:

- improved productivity
- increased turnover
- improved customer services

## The daily challenges of scheduling

- Sudden **changes** in orders occur frequently - you spend a lot of time scheduling and re-scheduling the production plan
- **Interdependency of resources** in the production flow - several machines in your production are dependent on each other, which makes production scheduling very complex
- **Shortest possible delivery time** - many orders are rush orders and it is vital that the company is able to deliver within short timeframes – your window for executing orders is small and you often have to resort to paying staff overtime to get orders out on time
- The **reliability** of promised delivery times must be ensured at all times - customers expect short delivery times and they demand that they are precise and reliable – also in situations where production is busy. You sometimes feel forced to promise delivery that requires that production must make ad hoc solutions to get things done on time
- You sometimes experience **bottleneck situations** in production – preventing optimal production and causing delayed order deliveries
- Production output **fluctuates** – when production spikes you have to find ad hoc solutions - it is necessary to make use of overtime or outsourcing to make ends meet in production or risk delayed delivery
- **Predictions** of the consequences of scheduled activities often fail – you often find it difficult to get an overview of the secondary effects of activities, e.g. how orders affect each other
- Production scheduling with **spreadsheets or ERP systems** is very time consuming – you only have outmoded or inadequate scheduling tools at your disposal preventing you from focussing on the actual activities in production and the optimising of your schedule
- **Transfer of data** is inadequate or unsteady – you experience problems with the handling of data that is transferred between production and your ERP system



## **ROB-EX Scheduler is designed to help you manage all aspects of production scheduling, including:**

- Simple and fast scheduling and re-scheduling
- Full and immediate graphic overview of the implications of changes in production – e.g. manpower, materials and machines
- Scheduling based on the various time horizons that are relevant in your particular production processes
- Immediate overview for answering questions regarding delivery times – knowing that your answers are reliable
- Efficient tools for identifying and avoiding bottlenecks and for reducing lead time and the level of work in progress
- Total overview to address and solve problems in due time – and possibility to notify customers immediately when an order is going to be delayed. You will have all the information available to provide a qualified and precise overview of the situation
- Optimising tools that will help you balance the workload on machines so that they are used optimally
- Clear markers for distinguishing between production to stock and customer orders, so that you are able to identify and postpone production to stock and get rush orders processed first
- Full exchange of necessary data between ROB-EX Scheduler and your ERP system – your data will be reused and maintained in one place

ROB-EX Scheduler ensures a steady and optimal flow in your production. The system is designed to manage the dynamics and fluctuations that are natural factors in all production and supply chains.

## Reported results from ROB-EX users

85 of our customers have sent us reports of their experiences with ROB-EX Scheduler. They represent different company sizes and industries and different types of production.

### The reports show the following:

- Lead time: reduced by up to 40 %
- Level of work in progress: reduced by up to 15 %
- Improved utilisation of capacity: up to 20 %
- Reductions in overtime: up to 35 %
- Increased production output on the same equipment: up to 7 %
- An average of 50 % reduction of the time spent on production scheduling

### The vast majority of our customers in general experience:

- an increase in turnover
- a noticeable reduction in costs relating to:
  - wages/salary
  - financing
  - penalty payments
  - subsuppliers
  - materials



*"Now we can plan much better and smarter. We are in control of our processes, and we can resolve bottlenecks more effectively. If we have a rush order, we can see where there is capacity in different departments and what we can push through. Thanks to ROB-EX, we can also handle procurements better, so we make more efficient use of our storage capacity. All this means that our security of supply has increased enormously. ROB-EX Scheduler makes it possible to make use of manpower and materials optimally and shorten delivery times."*

Gijs Karsten, coordinator at Voortman Steel Machinery, Voortman Steel Machinery designs, develops and manufactures machines for the steel and plate processing industries

## **ROB-EX Scheduler – facts and features**

ROB-EX Scheduler is a specialised graphic and dynamic tool for production scheduling. It provides you with a complete overview that gives you the possibility to respond optimally to customer inquiries, changes in orders and changes in production. All relevant information is made available for you to make the right decisions – every time.

### **With ROB-EX Scheduler you get:**

- a complete overview of your entire production plan in a single well-structured Gantt chart
- access to all relevant underlying details straight from the Gantt chart
- a tool for running simulations and getting an immediate and precise overview of the consequences of changes and natural variations – so that you are able to assess several solutions before you make your decision
- efficient and easy-to-use tools for defining resources, capacity calendars, routes, delivery times, bill-of-materials and other relevant parameters
- multi-user access - immediate access to graphic/viewable implications of changes in the plan, while the plan is being set up or changed – several users are able to work on-line on the same plan at the same time
- manual or automatic production planning – using scheduling rules or by using the many tools available in ROB-EX Scheduler.
- a tested and proven tool that has been developed based on our own practical scheduling experiences and the experiences of our many customers
- A software solution that is configurable with all standard ERP and MES systems on the market. This means that you can use data that is already registered in your systems



## Our customers say



*"ROB-EX Scheduler is a fantastic tool. I just don't know what we would do without it. We would practically be blind, and wouldn't have an overview of anything at all if we didn't have it."*

Morten Agerbo,  
Planner,  
Hydra-Grene



*"When it comes to planning, ROB-EX Scheduler is our most important tool. Ten of us use it every day, and seven employees have ROB-EX open eight hours a day – 100% of the time. We use it for everything from purchasing materials to confirming sales orders – everything!"*

Henrik Svejstrup Madsen,  
Production Planning Manager,  
Tvilum Møbler ApS.



*"The big advantage for us is that we can work on the same plan across the entire organisation, where we used to be divided regionally and into periods of two weeks. Today we can see the same pool throughout the country."*

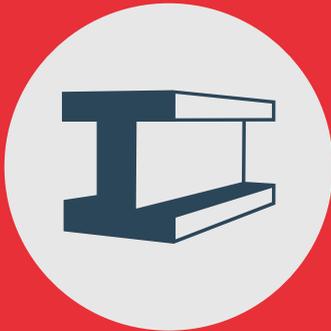
Jan Nørregaard Olsen,  
Department Head,  
Munck Asphalt A/S



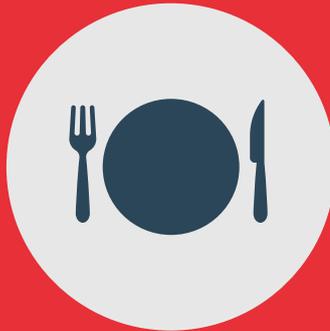
## Applicability

ROB-EX Scheduler is highly adaptable and is currently used in a broad range of sectors:

Steel & metal



Food & beverages



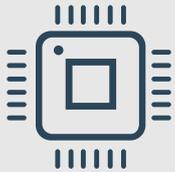
Life sciences



Plastics



Electronics



Wood & furniture



Chemical industries



Others



***On-time delivery was down to only 65% – now it is 99.8%***

*“Baltic Emballage delivered approximately 35% of all orders too late when I started, one and a half years ago. The planning was done manually using Excel sheets and there was an unexpected, unfortunate surprise nearly every day. We were putting out fires constantly, and we experienced a high staff turnover. After implementing ROB-EX we deliver 99.8% of all orders on time and have a better overview.”*

Jesper Larsen, COO, Baltic Emballage.



## More than just software

ROB-EX Scheduler is more than just a software package. Both our partners and we at ROB-EX's offer consultancy services and on-line support when needed. You are very welcome to join our LinkedIn group and subscribe to our newsletter to keep updated on all developments. Via these platforms you are also able to connect with other ROB-EX users.

Would you like to know more about how you could benefit from using the ROB-EX Scheduler?

Call us on +45 7022 0170 or send an email to the following address: [user@rob-ex.com](mailto:user@rob-ex.com).

It is our mission is to provide production companies with the best scheduling tool available. ROB-EX Scheduler is a tool that is developed for and with the planners, who are facing the challenges of managing production processes. The role of planners has expanded since we released the first version of ROB-EX Scheduler in 2002. Demands regarding optimisation, documentation and flexibility have increased, and we follow the developments closely, so that we are able to provide the tools that planners need to meet the new requirements.

The ROB-EX Scheduler is a versatile and flexible scheduling tool, designed for both order-based, project-based and process-based production. It is the result of our expertise in information technology, scheduling and production management and feedback from our users worldwide.

ROB-EX Scheduler has successfully improved production scheduling in a large number of production companies of highly varying sizes and from a broad range of industrial sectors.

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