



# The hybrid solution of Maes Mattress Ticking

This e-book explores the benefits of a hybrid solution for Maes Mattress Ticking, namely Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations in the cloud from 9altitudes, connected to an MES package and self made software on premise.





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Maes Mattress Ticking, manufacturer of mattress fabrics in Zwevegem, Belgium opts for a hybrid architecture. An ERP package of Microsoft Dynamics 365 in the cloud, together with own software and the MES system of BMSVision (especially for weaving and knitting) on premise. During the search for an ERP system, they contacted 9altitudes: *"9altitudes proposed to implement a part of the solution in the cloud, and to keep the other part on premise,"* explains Jürgen Van Damme, CFO at Maes. *"Because we shared that same vision, we ended up partnering with them."*

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- » Outbound document flow and reporting



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Wouter Debonnet, IT Manager Maes Mattress Ticking

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## The importance of a future proof approach

*"We started the search for a new ERP system, partly because the previous package was outdated and no longer supported by Microsoft," explains Jürgen. "In that search, it was important not to experience the same problems as before, with the old ERP," agrees Wouter Debonnet, IT Manager at Maes Mattress Ticking. "One of these problems was the fact that updates did not happen automatically. Furthermore, an upgrade to a new version was no longer possible, because the system was outdated. The fact that there was a lot of customization did not play in our favor either. Because all the production processes were in the ERP, it was difficult for us to respond to new requirements that needed to be added to the system."*

*"9altitudes suggested that we shouldn't incorporate everything into the ERP package," explains Wouter. "They indicated that we should use our already existing MES package for weaving and knitting, because it was made especially for our industry, instead of unnecessarily including that software into the ERP system. In fact, the packages could be connected to each other."*



## Advantages of an ERP system in the cloud

*"The new ERP package Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations has a lot of benefits," Wouter clarifies. "For example, the system remains up-to-date, without any intervention. In this way, it always meets the necessary requirements."*

*“Even now, an ERP in the cloud has its advantages,” explains Jürgen. “Now that we are working more from home, our ERP users can still access and work in the app. The ERP system in the cloud provides us with the necessary support, which makes our company future proof.”*

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Wouter Debonnet, IT Manager Maes Mattress Ticking

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*“Another advantage is the fact that an ERP in the cloud always adapts to the new standards,” says Wouter. “If the standards change next month, the package will update itself. Also, if, for example, a new reporting tool is invented, it will also be available in the app after a while. Consequently, the cloud makes it possible for us to evolve and stay on top of market trends at all times.”*

### **The MES system on premise**

*“In addition to the ERP package from 9altitudes, we have an existing MES system from BMSVision,” explains Wouter. “This system was developed specifically for the weaving and knitting industry, so all the specifics of our production are packed into the MES system.” This solution runs at Maes Mattress Ticking on premise, which means that the data remains on its own server. “On top of that, we have also developed our own software specifically for the weaving and knitting industry, which also runs on premise.”*

## **What exactly does an MES system do?**

*"We use the MES system on the production floor," explains Wouter. "There, it's important that a weaver can see which pieces are scheduled on a machine before he wants to use it. The same repeats itself in the rest of the process. Once a piece is woven, it must be docked. Then we finish the piece. Consequently, the MES system is going to follow up on every production step."*

## **The hybrid model: cloud and on premise working together**

By working with a modern (cloud) application such as Microsoft Dynamics 365, you can collaborate with on-premise software. In this way, Maes combines the advantages of a modern working environment and the power of an on-premise system.

*"After being monitored by the MES system, it forwards all the information to the ERP package. Just think of all the steps that have been carried out. Once a piece is finished, it enters the stock. There, it is also important that the piece is known in Dynamics 365 so that we can sell the product and so that the stock management can take effect. This way, the warehouse worker can pick the product and transport it on the truck after which it finally arrives at the customer."*

## **Outbound document flow and reporting**

In addition to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Operations, Maes Mattress Ticking also has 9A Document Management and Power BI, implemented by 9altitudes. *"Before we got to know 9altitudes, we hadn't thought about changing our document flow," explains Wouter. "In the previous ERP package we could generate invoices. These were rigid documents, to which we could not make any changes ourselves. With the 9A Document Management solution it is very easy add procedures into the system yourself. Think of adding a piece of text on the invoice for customers in the USA, but not for all other customers. We can be more flexible, from customer to customer, market to market or within a specific timeframe."*

*"We are also further working to improve our reporting, this through Power BI. Because the reporting tool is directly integrated into Microsoft Dynamics 365, we can use this data. The same goes for the other systems connected to the ERP package, such as MES and our own software," explains Wouter. "An important aspect remains reporting," explains Jürgen. "In the previous package, we had to make adjustments in Excel. In the current version, the idea is that all reporting from financial to profitability figures will be taken directly from the ERP package, with the intervention of Power BI."*