

Sanofi-aventis



First time customer, Long lasting relationship.

Sanofi-aventis, a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry, researches and develops medicines and vaccines to help improve the lives of the greatest possible number of people.

R&D explores a broad spectrum of innovative approaches, and develops new products in the key areas of therapeutic expertise: Thrombosis, Cardiovascular diseases, Diabetes, Vaccines, Oncology, Central Nervous System disorders and Internal Medicine.

The Company's growth is attributable to a regional approach to business operations, backed by a comprehensive portfolio of innovative products, mature prescription medicines, consumer health products and generics, as well as vaccines.

By virtue of its commitments, Sanofi-aventis constantly adapts its development model to the world's emerging human and economic problems.

Sanofi-aventis has chosen to integrate its manufacturing processes. This strategy enables the company to anticipate changes in the sector, while maintaining control of the quality of its products and the reliability of its supplies from start to finish. Sanofi-aventis now has one of the largest industrial infrastructures in the pharmaceutical industry, with industrial facilities all around the world and over 30,000 employees that are engaged in the production of active ingredients and excipients as well as the manufacture, packaging and distribution of pharmaceutical products and vaccines.

The Challenge

Sanofi-aventis was the first customer of Elan Software that implemented a true MES solution. This was back in 1985. At the time, Sanofi-aventis was looking for a solution to automate their Weigh & Dispense units across their major manufacturing and research sites. The Weigh & Dispense solution had to automate the entire Weigh & Dispense process – guiding the operator across all weighing operations, automatically performing complex calculations such as potency compensation, providing full traceability and genealogy and integrating with all ERP systems (SAP, Oracle, Prodstar). It was critical for Sanofi-aventis that all manufacturing sites use the same Weigh & Dispense rules regardless of the product or the country. Elan Software and Sanofi-aventis worked together to define the first XFP Weigh & Dispense solution. Over the years, the XFP Weigh & Dispense application has become the most widely used solution in the market.

The Solution

Over 15 Sanofi-aventis manufacturing sites, including a total of 360 users and ranging from Western and Eastern Europe to North Africa, are using XFP Weigh & Dispense to calibrate their scales, perform and secure their weighing and reconciliation operations and to update the ERP systems. The manufacturing hub for Near Eastern and Middle Eastern markets in Egypt is also running XFP. The great majority of the sites are dedicated to manufacturing solid and semi-solid forms. Nonetheless, some sites produce liquid forms and sterile manufacturing.

At all Sanofi-aventis sites, XFP is perfectly integrated with the ERP systems in place. Information such as raw material consumption, inventory, items and work orders, are constantly updated. During every FDA audit at Sanofi-aventis sites, the XFP Weigh & Dispense solution has always been highly scrutinized for Part 11 compliance and mistake-proofing and has always succeeded.



As the standard Weigh & Dispense solution for the group, XFP continues to roll out across all Sanofi-aventis sites. From needs analysis to production start date, the implementation of XFP Weigh & Dispense, including integration with the ERP system, takes less than 6 months.

The Benefits

The implementation of the XFP-MES solution has enabled Sanofi-aventis to secure their operations, optimize their Weigh & Dispense workflows and greatly increase their productivity, effectiveness and efficiency.

The weighing process is fully secured by XFP. All formula risks have been alleviated even in the complex process of potency compensation, all calculations are done automatically and the operators receive the right instruction each and every time to weigh the exact quantity of each ingredient.

By sharing common Weigh & Dispense rules and automated solutions across sites, Sanofi-aventis has been able to optimize its weighing workflows, minimizing inventory movements and maximizing weighing cadence.

Since the first implementation of XFP, Sanofi-aventis manufacturing sites have seen their manufacturing load increase drastically over the years. Nonetheless, they have been able to absorb the extra load with the same weigh & dispense boxes and the staff appreciates using the XFP automated system. The implementation of XFP has enabled Sanofi-aventis to increase productivity by up to 30%, compared to the previous Weigh and Dispense System.

"The XFP solution has been the choice of Sanofi-aventis group for all Weigh & Dispense automation requirements since 1985. Over 15 manufacturing sites worldwide are using XFP to weigh and dispense their active ingredients."

Henri Ledoux, CTO Industrial Affairs - Applications