

# SNA

Creates Competitive Manufacturing with Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE



## Industry

Hand tools manufacturing

## Challenges

- » Disparate machines and systems
- » Scaling to meet consumer demand
- » Manual processes

## Benefits

- » Increased productivity by 14%
- » Quick scalability
- » More efficient manufacturing processes
- » Streamlined production processes

SNA Europe Industries is a leading European hand tools manufacturer in the Snap-on Group, a global tool and equipment supplier. The factory located in Bollnäs employs 80 people and produces over 4 million hand saws annually, marketed under the brand name Bahco.

To maintain competitive manufacturing of hand and garden saws, SNA Europe launched a comprehensive improvement strategy in its Bollnäs factory. Despite the rebuilding and the replacement of several machines, the factory has succeeded in continuing productivity growth over time with monitoring, flow analysis with Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE and a well-organized improvement strategy.

“Overall, SNA Europe offers a broad range of tools. Approximately 24,000 products are being sold under the trademarks Bahco and Irimo. Here in Bollnäs, we produce 4.4 million hand saws per year, in addition to garden saws and special saws.”

In collaboration with Aptean, the project was implemented to strengthen SNA Europe’s market position by introducing a new and improved product range and creating a more efficient manufacturing process.





“We live in a competitive world and therefore need to constantly improve our products and streamline production. We had several manual processes that weren’t financially viable in the long run. It was time for an update of machines, processes and working methods.

The operator manually recorded any issues, such as downtime type, in a list physically located by the machines. After that, a Continuous Improvement Manager made a compilation of the lists and used the data to create charts. It was not very precise, and it created a lot of extra work. It was often difficult to interpret the charts; what the biggest downtime type was and when and how often it occurred.” Annelie Laitila, Production Manager, SNA Bollnäs factory.

## **Better Production Flows and Increased Productivity**

With Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE, the operator logs the downtime type as it occurs. This means that we now get the information in real-time and go through it in detail and take action in our daily morning meetings.

Every morning we monitor the OEE values of the machines and discuss any technical errors. The machines run 24 hours a day, and we have a completed report to review every day.

“In 2013, we started our ‘Future State’ project under the direction of Stefan Halvarsson. The goal of the project includes to create better work flow to reduce internal transportation and in-process materials, as well as shorten our lead times.”



“The work with the project went really well, largely thanks to Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE. We had a lot of start-up problems. The OEE for this machine has increased from 32% to 64%. The increase in OEE continues as we solve the downtime causes identified by Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE.”

**Stefan Halvarsson**, Production Manager, SNA Bollnäs factory



In addition to major layout changes, 8 out of 16 larger machines have been replaced during the continuous improvement project in the factory in Bollnäs. Despite the challenges in terms of production downtime and upstart disturbances, productivity increased by 14% from 2013 to 2017.

“We would never have been able to go this far if it had not been for the production staff’s patience and dedication throughout our improvement project. The operators must get an opportunity to be involved and feel included in the process.” Stefan Halvarsson, Production Manager, SNA Bollnäs factory

## **Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE Productivity Award Attracted Interest from Other Companies**

By implementing Aptean Industrial Manufacturing OEE Visualize in the Bollnäs factory, SNA Europe is monitoring the production in real-time on displays throughout the factory. Annelie Laitila is delighted with the collaboration, the results, and how the improvement project has been implemented.

Laitila says, “Despite considerable changes, no major issues have been encountered that made the process difficult, and we have felt a lot of support throughout the journey. Apteian visited us, and we have participated in the Apteian Industrial Manufacturing OEE User Days, where we were able to exchange experiences with other Apteian OEE users. After we announced that we had been awarded the Apteian Industrial Manufacturing OEE Productivity Award on the website, we were contacted by neighboring companies who showed interest in study visits that generated new ideas. That was, of course, a lot of fun!” says Annelie Laitila, concluding: “However, we are not ready yet; the improvement project is still ongoing. Among other things, we will replace more machines and want to increase production, optimize flows and further improve the products. But we are excited to be well on our way thanks to our expertise combined with improved production monitoring.”



## Are you Ready to Learn More?

We'd love to show you how companies like yours are benefiting from Apteian Industrial Manufacturing OEE technology.

Contact us at [info@apteian.com](mailto:info@apteian.com) or visit [www.apteian.com](http://www.apteian.com).



### About Apteian

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