

Success Story

Welser

PARADiNE

«From searching to finding» Introduction of ECLASS at Welser



 **ECLASS**

preferred partner platinum

Project Scope, Problems

Welser Profile GmbH produces special profiles made of steel, stainless steel and non-ferrous metals at four production sites by roll forming.

In preparation for the introduction of an electronic catalog ordering system and the introduction of automated vertical storage systems, the material master data for the indirect material was analyzed. It was found that the existing old structure with product groups and material types was no longer up-to-date and, moreover, was not implemented consistently.

A project was set up for the uniform classification of material master data for indirect material. The Paradine GmbH, a global active specialist in material master data management, was assigned to implement the project.

In the ERP system SAP more than **50.000** material master data for indirect material were created.

For about half of the material master data also purchase order texts or basic data texts were available. In addition to the material type in the ERP system, there was a material group structure with approx.

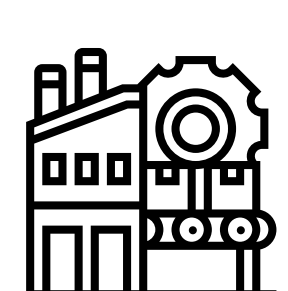
**290
material
groups.**


There were no uniform rules for designations or purchase order texts. This led to varying data quality, long search time, incorrect and incomplete results when searching and finding existing parts as well as duplicates when creating new parts.

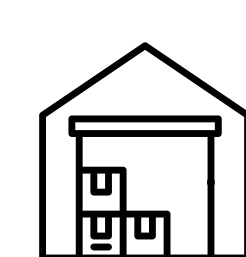
Due to the grown structure and lack of uniform categorizations, evaluations such as spend analyses were also time-consuming and the results were afflicted with inaccuracies.



The tool and equipment issue in production is organized via classic warehouses. The parts are issued by warehouse employees.



 **1.5 km**



Due to the size of the production sites, distances of up to 1.5 km from the production facility to the warehouse location are possible. This leads to a high expenditure of time when spare or auxiliary materials and supplies are needed.

Project Implementation

As a first step for the project implementation the possibilities of data structuring (classification) were considered. After analyzing the possibilities of setting up an own structure and considering the international standards available on the market, the decision was made to use ECLASS as a classification and product description standard.

The main reasons for the decision to use ECLASS were the global availability (languages), the breadth of the range of parts and services depicted, the provision of product data by suppliers and manufacturers, and the possibility of being able to expand or restrict company-specific data as required.

After several workshops and a review of the solutions available on the market, the ECLASS standard was selected as the target structure for the classification and Paradine was commissioned with the project implementation. The material master data from the ERP system was transferred to Paradine and the project infrastructure was set up at Paradine.

The data was transferred to the eptos™ master data system of Paradine for processing and classified according to ECLASS Release 10.1. In the course of the classification process the suppliers and manufacturers were also involved in the classification process. Also data sheets and pictures of the purchased and catalog parts were in the scope.

A part of the material master data was classified by Welser itself after coordination with Paradine and approx.

**5,000 material master data
were identified and eliminated**

as no longer relevant before the project started.



**In total, Paradine
classified about 46,000
material master data
according to ECLASS 10.1.**

Benefits, Learnings

«The work result was better than expected because we expected «gaps» in the ECLASS structure»

says Ing. Manfred Schrammel, purchasing manager at Welser Profile, very satisfied.

Only a small percentage of the parts could not be clearly classified.

In total, the **46,000 material master data** records were assigned to about 2.900 ECLASS classes. These classes will be significantly reduced in further project steps.

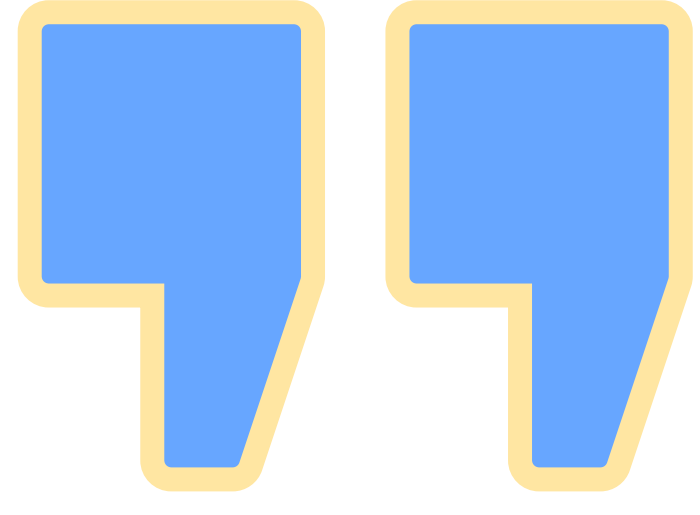
The scope of the images provided by suppliers and manufacturers did not meet Welser's expectations in the initial result. Since this information is to be used for the catalog system as well as the automated storage system, a further phase was included in the project, in which images and data sheets were again requested from the suppliers and manufacturers. At the end of this phase the project goal was achieved.

The duration of the project was extended compared to the original phase, because before, during and after the Christmas period, the processing times at Welser, but also at suppliers and manufacturers were much longer than expected.

The project results exceeded the expectations:

- Transparency in the parts enables simple bundling of requirements and reduces product, process and capital costs in the warehouse
- Uniformity and transparency for indirect material was implemented across all locations
- Inactive suppliers were identified and eliminated
- Classification enables the standardization of spelling within classes
- Automatic mapping to product groups reduces effort and increases the quality of spend analyses
- Parts can be found easily and quickly in the automated warehouse without the assistance of warehouse staff

Next Steps



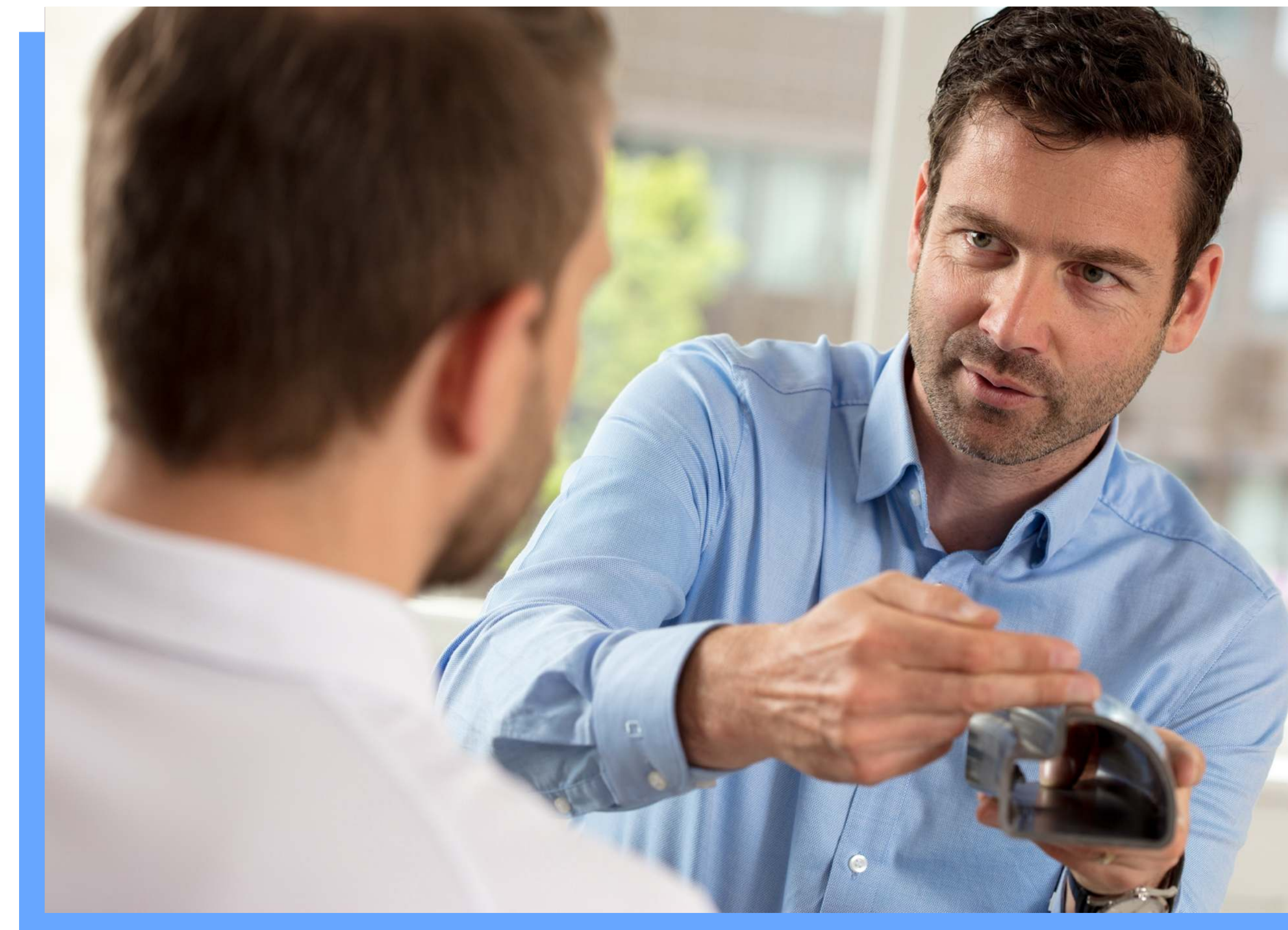
The project results are used in the ERP system, catalog system and also in the automated warehouse system.



«In a next step, after the roll-out, we will discuss the introduction of ECLASS-based feature lists. Product descriptions via features offer even better possibilities for searching, finding and comparing products», Oliver Brandl, purchasing specialist for investment and operating resources at Welser, explains the outlook for next steps.

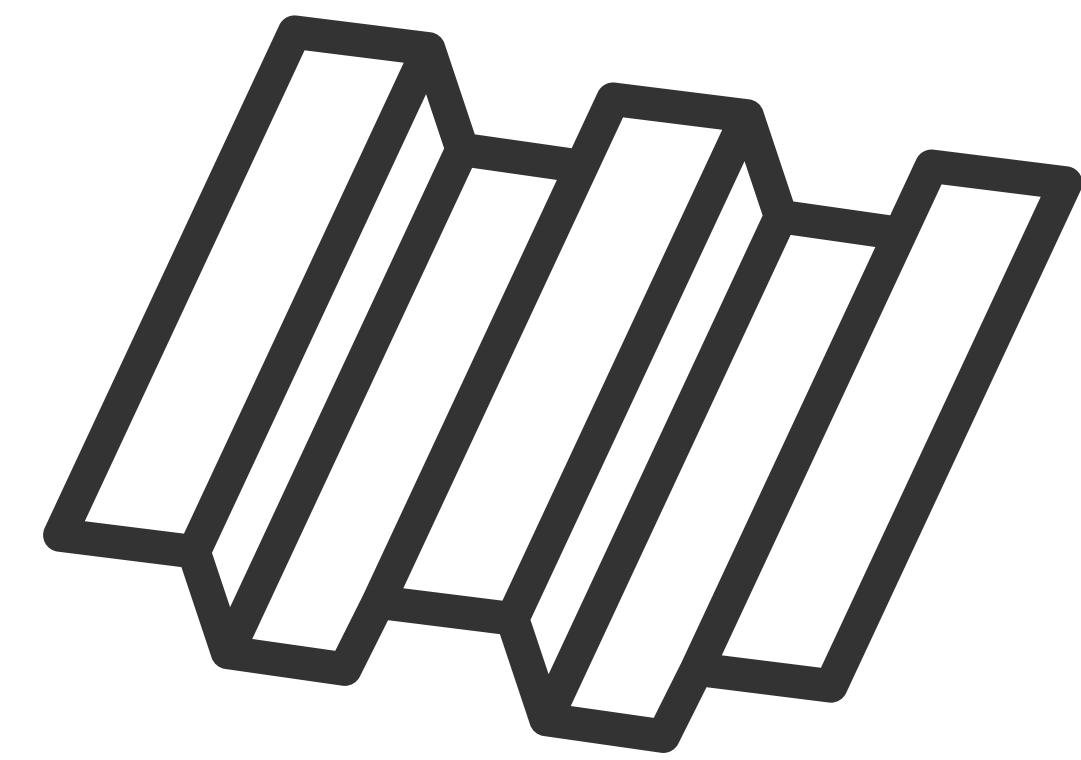
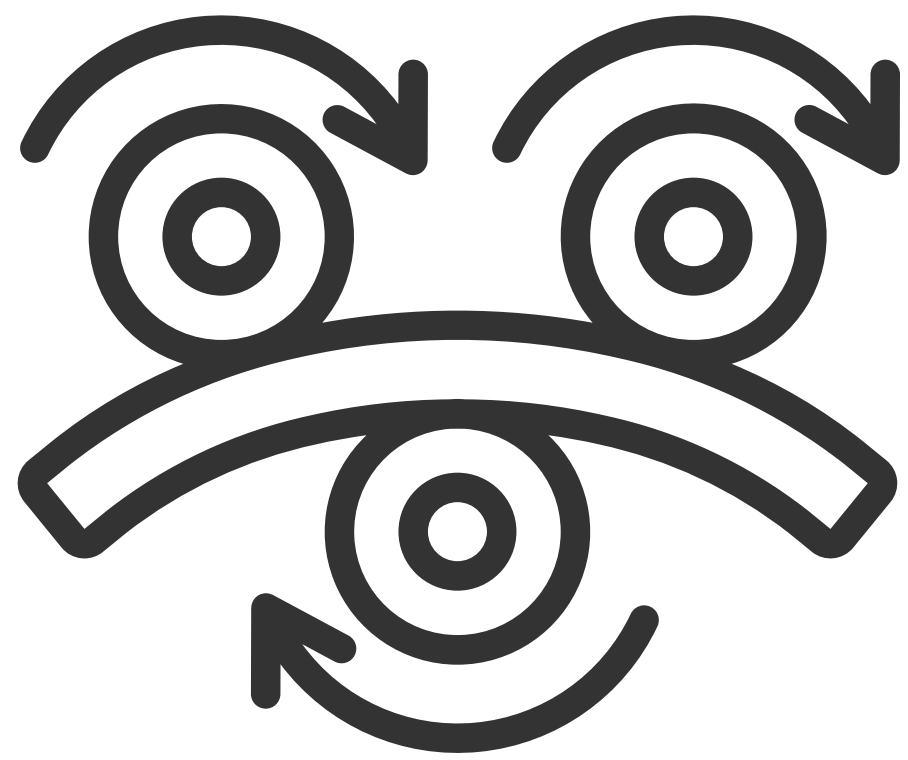
In the new system, potential duplicates can be quickly identified and avoided and users are better guided through the system to gather all relevant information for a product.

For maintenance, the provision of the required parts should be scheduled via the system and made available on site at the machine at the required time. There is no need to pick up parts from the warehouse and there is no longer any need for missing parts. Thus, maintenance work can be carried out without delay. Work processes become leaner and the availability of the production facilities increases.



Welser Profiles GmbH

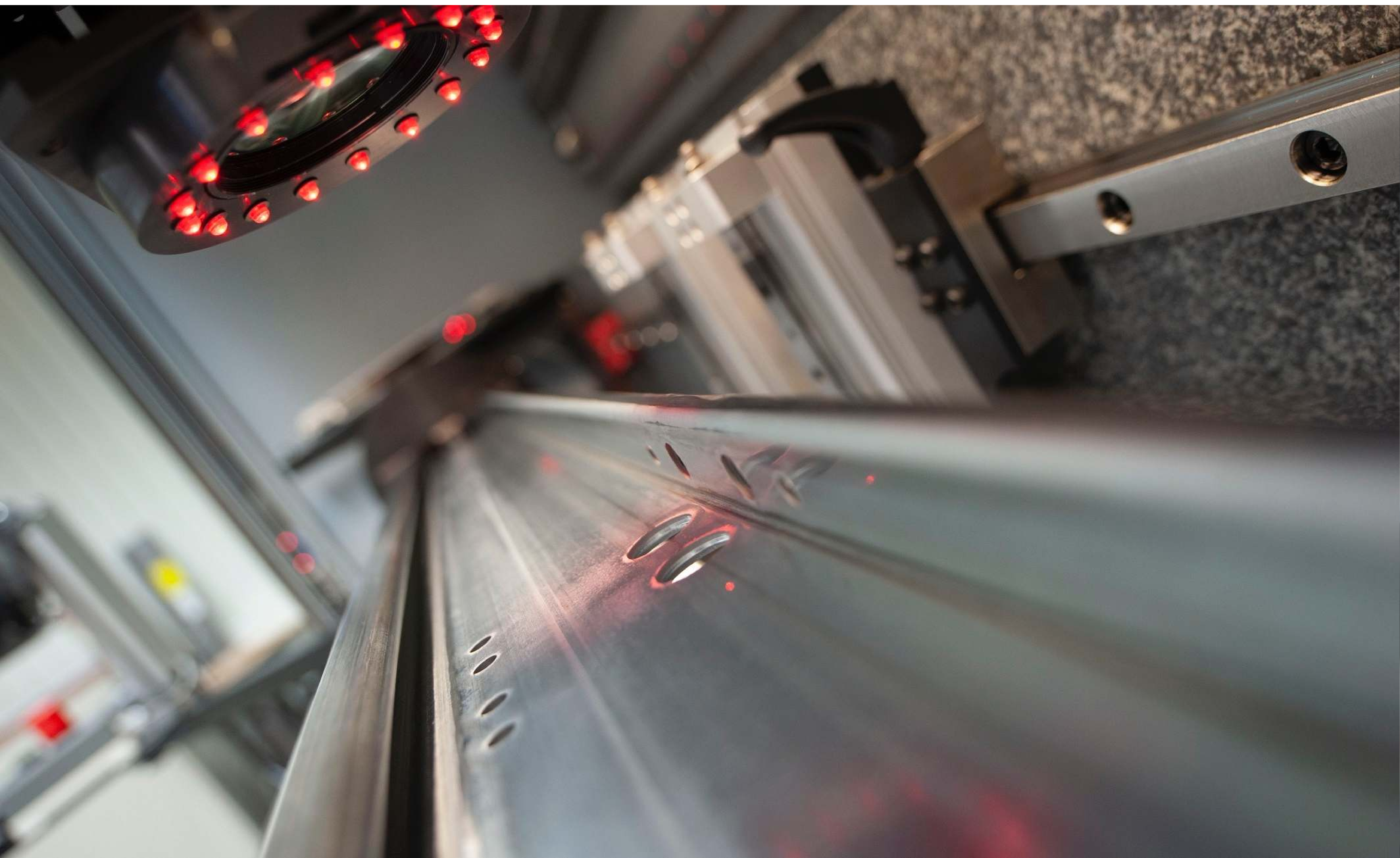
The Welser Profile Group is a leading producer of special profiles and profile tubes made of steel, stainless steel and non-ferrous metals.



*As a family business in the 11th generation, Welser was founded in **1664** as a pan forge in **Ybbsitz, Austria**.*

Today the company is a state-of-the-art profiling operation with a technology center and production sites in Austria, Germany and the USA. With worldwide sales offices, customers from a wide range of industries are supplied around the globe.

Welser Profile produces special profiles by roll forming. The steel strip runs into the roll forming line where it is continuously formed in up to 60 forming steps to the finished cross-section - economically, flexibly and environmentally friendly.



About Paradine

Paradine is a global active company providing consulting, master data services and software solutions in product and material master data management.

By supporting companies and organizations with consistent master data management, our customers sustainably reduce costs and achieve high transparency in product and material master data throughout the entire organization.



The eptos™ Product Master Data system is a leading solution for creating and maintaining enterprise-wide consistent product and material master data. eptos™ supports efficient consolidation and deduplication of multilingual product and material master data.

Paradine advises and supports clients from the creation through the introduction to the ongoing support of classifications, product master data solutions and mappings – and takes care of the consolidation, verification, enrichment, and deduplication of master data with its Master Data Services.

High quality master data become valuable assets for the companies and enable digitalization and support smart manufacturing/Industry 4.0 implementations.

Paradine is proud to work for global corporations such as AT&S, BASF, ECLASS, Siemens, Volkswagen and Zeiss.

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