



GROUPE BARBIER HARNESSES THE POWER OF SAP WITH MOBILE APPLICATIONS FROM HRC SOFTWARE

In parallel to upgrading its SAP infrastructure, Groupe Barbier's CIO wanted to provide its business users with high-performance mobile tools. This transformation was carried out on two fronts, thanks to the capabilities and agility of HRC Software's mobile solutions.

GROUPE BARBIER OVERVIEW

Groupe Barbier is a French industrial company based mainly in the Haute-Loire and Rhône-Alpes regions, and generates over 35% of its revenues from export. In addition to its historic production site in Sainte Sigolène in Haute-Loire, the group operates production and recycling sites, a fast-growing business, ; as well as a facility in Mexico.

Groupe Barbier distributes its films to major names in industry, from the packaging sector to agriculture.

Like many French industrial groups, its activity is supported by SAP ECC and WM in particular, as well as IBM System i (AS/400). An upgrade project was initiated in 2018 by Jean-François Desassis, CIO of Groupe Barbier: "My priority was to review our SAP architecture in order to move to S/4HANA to update the infrastructure by migrating to Linux, but also benefit from a much more powerful HANA database."

Three information flows were identified as being the most suitable for mobile deployment: **inventory input/output management, monitoring of consumption of consumables and equipment** by the maintenance department, and **technician intervention management**.

After assessing SAP's mobile solutions, the project team felt that these would require far too many specific developments to be operational. The comparative study launched in 2021 quickly led Groupe Barbier to opt for HRC Software's mobile solution.

"The solution offered by HRC Software is based on Neptune, an SAP Fiori code generator. It offers ready-made displays, with all the data we needed, and ergonomics that have already been successfully tried and tested by other customers. The application's screens met our expectations, with simple sequences and applications that work on all terminals."



800 employees



170,000 tons of polyethylene processed annually



€ 370 million (2022)

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DEPLOYMENT ON SAP SYSTEM IN JUST A FEW HOURS

The solution's implementation was carried out in less than 2 days, using the standard mechanics of SAP add-on deployment (via transport order), so that within 48 hours, the mobile platform was installed and ready to be tested by the users.

Vincent Farissier, SAP Project Manager at Groupe Barbier, specifies: "The solution encapsulates within the SAP core and automatically benefits from its configuration. It does not require the deployment of a dedicated server for Neptune."

On the functional side, the project team aimed to stay as close as possible to HRC Software's standard to avoid dedicating much time to potential customizations and generating maintenance costs later on.

Jean-François Desassis summarizes, "99% of what the editor proposed met our needs," emphasizing, "What we added to the screens was absolutely minor."

The deployment was carried out with the assistance of an IT correspondent. This key user led the implementation of the solution with the business units, including the maintenance manager for the Group and the managers of the involved industrial sites. "During this phase, our dedicated contact at HRC Software demonstrated great availability and responsiveness to address our inquiries," notes Vincent Farissier.

The solution was deployed on an initial pilot site even before all inventory was inventoried and labeled. "The deployment was done on the fly, with barcodes being scanned by operators category by category," explains the project manager. "This is how we built up our equipment inventory. For example, each electric motor taken out of stock and installed on a production line was recorded in SAP via the application."

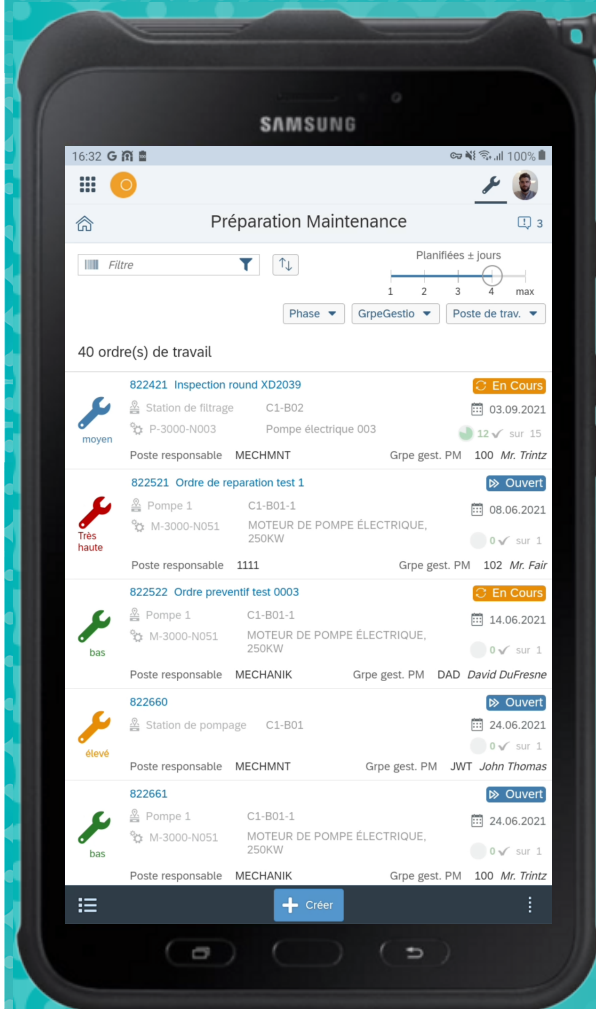
This data now enables consumption statistics for workshop spare parts, workshop by workshop, information that the industrial entity did not have until then. Similarly, the implementation of intervention notices proceeded in an extremely simple manner.



LIVE IN
48 HOURS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 5-person IT department (3 functional, 2 technical)
- SAP ECC platform on System i (AS/400) migrated to Linux in November 2019, changeover to SAP S/4HANA planned for December 2023
- 30 users of HRC Software mobile applications



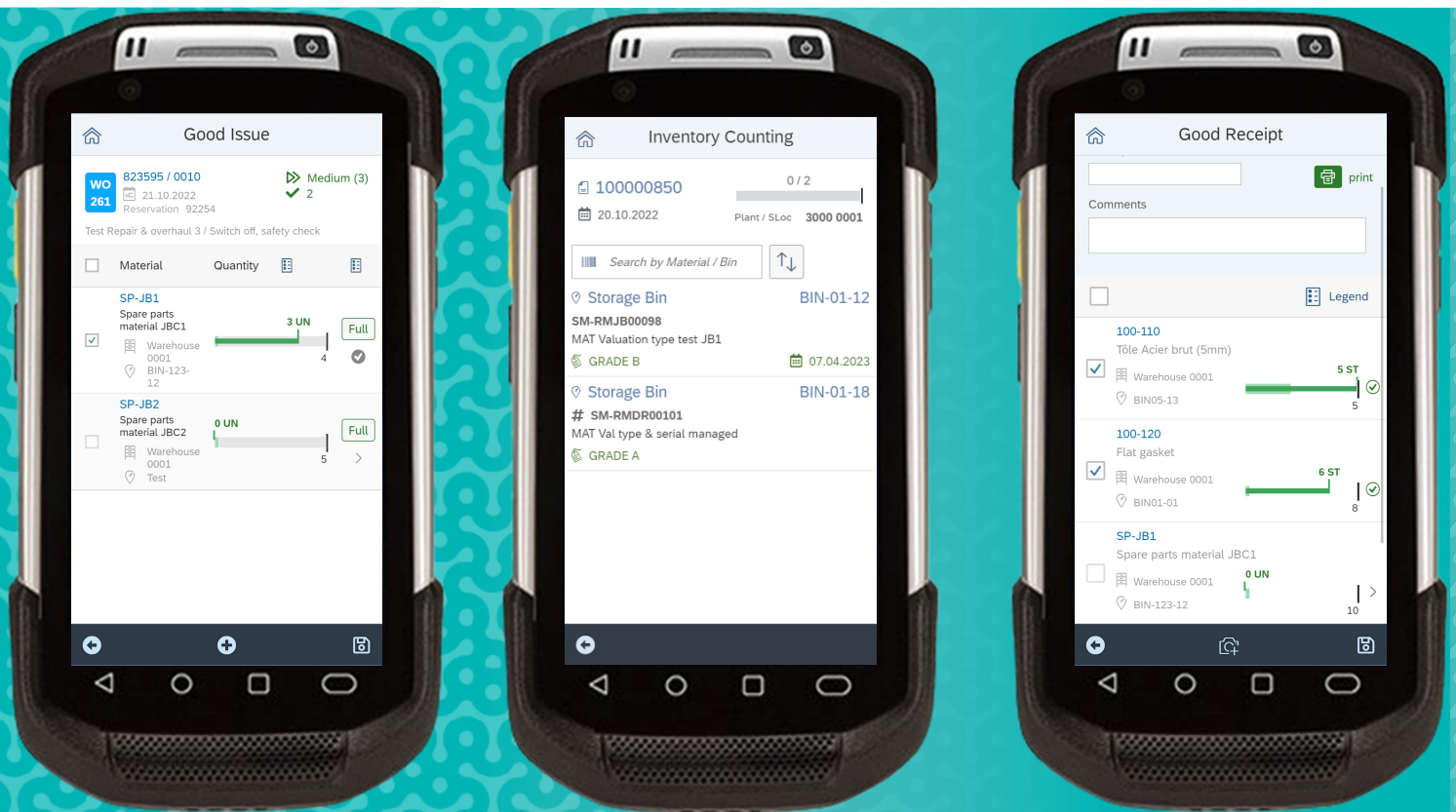
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“We were fortunate to be able to rely on a production director and site directors who were all convinced of the value of having a mobile solution. There was a strong demand from the business units, and as a result, change management was particularly straightforward.”

Vincent Farissier, SAP Project Manager, Groupe Barbier

Vincent Farissier adds: **“The only concern of the operators was that they would have to enter multiple pieces of information on the screen. Their job is to repair machines, not waste time on an application.”** This fear was quickly dispelled once the application was up and running for the first time. The key user quickly scanned the parts inventory, then the application became part of the operators' daily routine.

Similarly, for service notifications, it had been decided to work in parallel with the old paper system for the first two weeks of the application's launch. The aim was to secure the launch and prevent any bugs from hampering the work of maintenance technicians, and hence production. Very quickly, given the success of the launch, the maintenance manager took the decision to abandon the paper-based system and to operate in mobile mode only.



BUSINESS USERS HAVE QUICKLY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Jean-François Desassis is particularly pleased with the speed of deployment: "All in all, within 1 month, the mobile application had been deployed and adopted by the users. The solution was put into production very quickly; the most time-consuming part was the organizational aspect, how to arrange inventory, for example. On the remaining sites to be deployed, the bulk of the work concerns the organizational changes to be made, and not the IT side".

Deployment was swift on both the IT and business sides. While HRC Software made its recommendations in terms of mobile terminals, the Barbier Group chose the Athesi brand. These hardened terminals are used by some of Groupe Barbier's major customers.

HRC immediately adapted its application to support the specificities of these terminals, particularly for barcode reading. The editor demonstrated its agility in supporting Groupe Barbier in its choice of terminals, and the compatibility of its solution with the different versions of SAP facilitated the manufacturing process's migration to SAP S/4 HANA. "This was also one of our concerns before launching our project," explains Jean-François Desassis. "We wanted full compatibility with the various new SAP versions, so we didn't have to carry out a new migration project specifically for mobile applications."

We were able to verify this compatibility, and the mobile applications were able to function almost immediately after the S/4HANA migrations, without having to carry out any adaptation other than updating the HRC Software application.

Jean-François Desassis, Chief Information Officer, Groupe Barbier



The complete migration of the Barbier Group's information system to S/4HANA is planned for the end of 2023. Once this is completed, other HRC Software mobile applications will be deployed, specifically to extend SAP EWM inventory management and manage storage locations for storing finished products. Mobility is clearly a key component in the Barbier Group's digital transformation towards zero paper, more efficient processes and better monitoring of activities.



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