

HINE Group further expands ERP best practice by implementing IFS Cloud



An IFS user since 2019, HINE Group has signed a deal to expand its IFS solution to India, China, México, and Brazil and are planning their migration to IFS Cloud.

Founded in Spain 1974 and with more than 50 years of experience in the design, development and manufacture of hydraulic systems, HINE Group provides hydraulic and cooling solutions for industrial and renewable energy companies worldwide. Today, with some 85,000 wind turbines HINE Group operates seven production plants and has employees in Spain, USA, China, India, Brazil, and Mexico.

Global growth: manufacture, service, and distribution

As part of a strategic transformation initiative to unify its business globally and support international business growth for both manufacture and service/distribution, HINE group selected and began implementing IFS in 2019. Explains Ander Ansoalde, CIO at Hine Group. "Our goal with IFS was to increase productivity, improve decision-making, and acquire a 360-degree, real-time view of the state of play in all plants worldwide while continuing to offer customers the best and most competitive service" he says. Deciding factors in the groups selection of IFS included comprehensive, out-of-the-box functionality, flexible scalability, and configurability to accommodate the groups different divisions, and robust reporting capabilities. "Despite the pandemic, the implementation was also completed with very little cost deviation," observes Ansoalde.

"With seven production sites around the world, using several different systems, the ability to achieve a single source of truth through IFS willful fill a key strategic goal." "As well as continuing our core business as a solutions developer, we are also diversifying with a Service and Distribution Business," says Ansoalde. "It's essential we have a single point of information to empower all entities to take the right decisions at the right time, and also to have clear visibility of new company acquisitions."

About Hine Group

Founded in 1974, Hine is a leading supplier of hydraulic systems, hydraulic components, and cooling systems for industrial and renewable energy companies.

With production facilities in 6 countries the company has an international workforce servicing more than 1500 customers.

www.hinegroup.com



“We have only needed to make minor changes via configurations, the IFS core remains standard with no invasive coding required,” says Ansoalde. “This has significant long-term benefits for the business as, with no customization issues to consider, the IFS software version can be readily and easily updated at any time, allowing regular access to the latest functionality, fixes and security patches.

Following a successful go-live for the Spanish and US operations, the group aims to complete the deployment of IFS for the remaining subsidiaries by the end 2025, before then upgrading to IFS Cloud. “So far we have been able to continue the smooth roll out to our other subsidiaries ourselves, without further help from IFS,” says Ansoalde. “The interface is very intuitive, and is consistent across the different modules,” “Onboarding and training new users has been straightforward when rolling out across subsidiaries.”

To improve visibility, IFS Lobbies, customizable reporting dashboards within the system, have proved invaluable. “We use Lobbies constantly to get an instant overview of current operations, and take action based on real-time data,” says Ansoalde. “We now have full sight of cost control, with traceability and insights across all manufacturing and engineering operations. “The company is also looking forward to finalizing a full integration with Business Intelligence tools to further support business management.

The Moment of Service

Where does Ansoalde see IFS making the most impact on the company’s offer to customers? “I think the ability to adapt and so continuously improve service and competitiveness will be our biggest strategic wins,” he says. “We now have a modern, more secure platform for centralized information, with more options to export data and integrate other countries. For example, we implemented IFS in the US in 2023, and will soon roll out the solution in India, China and Brazil as part of a migration to IFS Cloud.”

Whilst it is too early to cite quantitative performance improvement metrics group-wide, Ansoalde highlights some qualitative benefits seen first-hand. “We’ve definitely seen improvement in our stock management, production planning and change management,” says Ansoalde. The EDI integration means we can quickly connect to customers and suppliers with costly ad hoc development, and we have been able to carry out integration with our automatic Test Benches, too. Automating inter-site transactions has also accelerated workflow,” he says.

Benefits seen with IFS

- Real-Time Visibility - a 360° view of operations.
- Easy Updates - minimal configuration needed, with no custom coding.
- User-Friendly Interface - intuitive design enables quick onboarding.
- Smart Dashboards - customizable reporting improves cost control.
- Efficient Workflows - automation and integration accelerate processes.
- Scalable & Secure – a centralized, secure platform.

“

IFS has given us full sight of cost control, with traceability and insights across all manufacturing and engineering operations.”

Ander Ansoalde, CIO, Hine Group



Find out more

For further information, contact your local IFS office or visit ifs.com

