# Sika Sarnafil

## Real-time data intelligence using SAP software on Stratus servers

### Business situation

With more than 140 years of experience in the construction industry, Sika Sarnafil has built a reputation for designing and producing high-quality products for its customers around the world. No where is this more evident than within the company's North American subsidiary which manufactures innovative thermoplastic roofing, waterproofing membranes, and system solutions for new building construction and renovation projects.

To maintain its competitive edge, Sika Sarnafil has historically used technology to maintain state-of-the-art operations within its manufacturing plants. The company continued with that tradition when it recently made the decision to shift how it collected and shared production data from its U.S. manufacturing site.

> " We needed a system we could consider bulletproof so we didn't lose any data, In the research we did, Stratus came up as number one in reliability."

**Greg Scheidemantel,**
Manager U.S. manufacturing plant
Sika Sarnafil

### QUICK FACTS

**SOLUTION BENEFITS**
- Real-time connectivity between its manufacturing plant and the corporate SAP instance
- Timely information enables world-class quality and operational efficiency
- Stratus® ftServer® platform minimizes the risk of downtime
- Plug-and-play platform simplicity limits involvement of plant IT resources

**PRODUCTS**
- Stratus® ftServer system at each site
- SAP® MII composite application
- Rockwell Automation RSSQL software
- Microsoft Windows Server® operating system
- Microsoft SQL Server® database software

**SERVICES**
- Stratus support services
- Tata Consultancy Services

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Previously, the company used a shop-floor data collection system to capture and transmit manufacturing data once a day to its SAP enterprise resource planning (ERP) application running in its main data center in Germany. To improve its decision-making processes, the company decided to implement a solution that offered real-time data connectivity between its manufacturing operations and its main headquarters.

The company chose a solution featuring the SAP® xApp™ Manufacturing Integration and Intelligence (SAP MII) composite application, which enables companies to link a wide variety of shop floor applications to their ERP system.

Designed to help companies gather real-time manufacturing intelligence pulled from plant operations, SAP MII requires a continuously available hardware platform. For Sika Sarnafil, the choice was easy – it selected the Stratus ftServer system, a hardware platform that delivers both fault-tolerant availability and the plug-and-play simplicity that companies need to successfully deploy SAP MII.

### Business objectives

Sika Sarnafil implemented SAP MII on a continuously available Stratus ftServer platform to enable it to:

- Gain real-time visibility to all data affecting its manufacturing operations
- Monitor the factory floor more efficiently
- Minimize the chance of any unplanned system outages
- Improve information sharing across its various plant and headquarters systems
- Speed up its decision-making processes

### The availability solution

According to Greg Scheidemantel, manager of Sika Sarnafil's U.S. manufacturing plant in Canton, Massachusetts, although network outages and system crashes happened occasionally in the past, they had never affected the ability of the plant to perform. However, once Sika Sarnafil made the decision to move to real-time, two-way information exchange, company officials knew that any type of outage could have a significant effect on operations.

"We made continuous availability a project requirement because unplanned downtime for our MII application is not acceptable," said Scheidemantel. "At the recommendation of our solution integrator, Tata Consultancy Services, we evaluated Stratus and felt very comfortable selecting the ftServer platform because of its field-proven track record in manufacturing industries."

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In addition, like most other manufacturers, Sika Sarnafil is faced with the difficult task of maintaining its IT infrastructure with limited personnel. The company has a centralized European-based IT group that maintains its corporate SAP implementation, with remote IT personnel located around the world. At the Canton plant, one IT professional is responsible for maintaining the manufacturing operations, as well as supporting 250 employees across the U.S.

"We wanted this to be a lights-off system," Scheidemantel said. "We have one person for our IT infrastructure here and his main responsibility is the upkeep of the network in the United States If possible, we wanted this to have little to no impact on him." Stratus ftServer systems proved to be the answer to both concerns.

Stratus systems make continuous uptime easy to afford and maintain by using standard Intel® server components and off-the-shelf Microsoft® Windows® and Red Hat® Enterprise Linux® operating systems. In addition, Stratus' ftServer architecture integrates redundant hardware components, with Automated Uptime™ Layer software technology and ActiveService™ capabilities to prevent unplanned downtime and data loss caused by server component failure. The result is a platform that offers the 99.999+% uptime that SAP MII requires in order to continuously process transactions.

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## The Industry's Highest Measured Uptime: Stratus ftServer systems

99.99988%

Stratus is the only server vendor to report the dependability of our installed base of systems worldwide. Updated daily, the Stratus Uptime Meter℠ is displayed on our Web site. The results report that ftServer systems surpass five nines uptime.
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Uptime. **All the time.**

## Business impact

Sika Sarnafil's factory-floor solution featuring the SAP MII composite application has enabled the company to improve its operational efficiencies and focus its efforts on growing the business. In addition, the plug-and-play simplicity of the Stratus ftServer makes it an easy-to-manage platform for applications running in the company's remote plants, outside its main data center.

For Sika Sarnafil, the ftServer platform has proven to be the right solution to address its business concerns. "We needed a system we could consider bulletproof so we didn't lose any data," Scheidemantel concluded. "In the research we did, Stratus came up as number one in reliability."

## About Stratus

Stratus delivers uptime for the applications its customers depend on most for their success. With its ultra-reliable servers, software and services, Stratus® products help to save lives and to protect the business and reputations of companies, institutions, and governments the world over.

To learn more about worry-free computing, visit www.stratus.com

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