



“Without ORION (Vision Suite), the failure of our production server could have been a total disaster for the business.”

Darek Potrapeluk, iSeries Manager
Faurecia Poland

Business Profile

Company name:
Faurecia Poland (part of Faurecia Group)

Headquarters:
Faurecia Group: Nanterre, France

Revenues:
Faurecia Group annual sales: more than €10 billion

Industry:
Logistics

Employees:
60,000 (more than 3,300 in Poland)

- Business Environment:
- Faurecia Group has operations throughout Europe and is a leading automotive module manufacturer.
 - Builds components including seats, cockpits, acoustic packages, front-end assemblies and exhaust units for major automotive manufacturers worldwide.
 - Operates 160 sites in 28 countries.
 - In Poland, Faurecia has seven production sites in four locations.
 - The Polish production sites have more than 3,300 employees, working in three shifts around the clock, up to six days a week.

Vision Solutions Product:
ORION™ (Vision Suite)

Critical Issue

Faurecia needed to maintain production at seven manufacturing and logistics sites in four locations in Poland and ensure rapid return to normal business operations in the event of unplanned downtime.

Results

- Fast, easy, faultless recovery of production systems on a backup server.
- Downtime is kept within limits set by the business.
- Prevents loss of manufacturing output due to downtime.

Technologies

- ORION (Vision Suite) from Vision Solutions
- MAC PAC and Brain MRP systems
- Two IBM® System i servers

Business Challenge

Faurecia Poland runs MAC PAC and Brain MRP systems on two IBM System i servers, handling all aspects of materials planning for its seven production sites. The significant flow of goods in and products out of these sites makes it vital to keep the MRP systems operational, with very little tolerance for downtime.

“The assumption in the business is that people on the production lines, in the warehouses and in logistics should be able to keep working for 48 hours without the MRP systems,” says Darek Potrapeluk, iSeries Manager, Faurecia Poland. “Any more downtime would put the business at serious risk.”

Potrapeluk is solely responsible for the System i hardware, operating system, databases and applications, a demanding task even when systems are in normal operation.



Solution

Faurecia Poland uses ORION™ (Vision Suite) from Vision Solutions to protect its business-critical MRP systems. When the company was required to perform an unscheduled role-swap between its production and backup server, the Vision Solutions software passed with flying colors.

Potrapeluk commented, “ORION (Vision Suite) enabled us to switch roles and get back into production inside one hour, ensuring that we met our obligation to the business.”

During routine maintenance on the production server, which required a new battery pack for its RAID controller, Faurecia Poland suffered a complete system failure. The cache in the RAID controller had not emptied correctly, and the standard recovery of the production systems could not be completed.

“We had planned a two-hour maintenance window, and this very improbable fault meant that we could not restart,” recalled Potrapeluk. “After 24 hours, I took the decision to switch roles to the backup site, using ORION (Vision Suite), and we were back in production on the second server within one hour.”

“The unplanned role switch was fast, easy and totally faultless – there were just three or four steps to carry out,” he noted.

Tomas Harasta, Senior Consultant for Czech company Crede Experto Praha, provided support both during the unplanned role swap and during the subsequent recovery of the main production server. “The support from Tomas Harasta was vital, helping the whole process to run smoothly. His excellent knowledge of both the Vision Solutions software and the entire System i architecture makes him a valuable business partner for Faurecia Poland,” noted Potrapeluk.

It took a total of seven days to repair and restart the production server, which required a full restore of the operating system kernel. Once the server was up and running again, it was synchronized with the former backup site, and ORION (Vision Suite) was used to switch roles back to the normal configuration.

“The time taken to fully restore the normal production server shows the value of the Vision Solutions software. Without it, our production might have stopped completely for several days, which of course is unacceptable for the business,” Potrapeluk stated.

“ORION (Vision Suite) gives me reassurance that our business systems can be recovered quickly in the event of a disaster—it’s like a safety net,” concludes Potrapeluk.



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