



s.Oliver

## How can we ensure quality abroad?

With sustainable standards, s.Oliver reinforces the competence of its production partners.

Several collections every month. To achieve this, in-house processes must be controlled and time cycles optimized – but no compromises may be made in quality. This is the motto of Doris Öhm and her colleagues in the Model Department of s.Oliver. Thanks to clear guidelines and practical tools, they ensure solid, fast results from their production partners. To make sure that this strategy also works in actual practice, s.Oliver uses assyst technologies like smart.pattern.

### Global pattern and design philosophy in teamwork

The pattern department at the company headquarters in Rottendorf takes the role of a Competence and Service Center. This is where the core items are developed. Together with designers and technicians, 14 employees create the standards for a globally uniform s.Oliver sizing & fitting philosophy. All 14 are in regular contact with the partner companies abroad. And to make sure that a pair of pants produced in India, for example, will also fit a

European, s.Oliver uses tools like grading, body dimension tables and fitting dummies based on SizeGERMANY data.

“We target partners who want to learn from us – but we also learn ourselves. We learn a lot about local trends from our colleagues in India and Hong Kong, for example.”

Doris Öhm, Head of Model Department, s.Oliver

### How does the technical side of this strategy look?

In 2010, s.Oliver switched from cad.assyst (Unix) to cad.assyst 20.10 (Windows) in order to increase flexibility and efficiency. The migration of the data and workplaces was carefully planned by a team consisting of s.Oliver and assyst experts. The planning includes the preparation of design databases and access authorizations, as well as integration into the company's global Windows server

landscape. The database is synchronized and switched to Windows overnight. During the first few days, four key users – trained by assyst – coach their colleagues to help them through the transition period. After just half a day, the pattern department has returned to the usual routine. The collection clock is ticking. The upgrade also involves smart.pattern – a core system for s.Oliver. The Rottendorf company was one of the first to purchase smart.pattern – and today s.Oliver uses more than 150 macros for all the standardized pattern elements. All the linings, interlinings and templates for blazers are developed in automated processes, for example. This saves valuable time which can be used for partner management and the creation of standards.

### s.Oliver sees the impact of its strategy – and is systematically continuing with it

With a lightened load of routine activities, the employees can now make full use of their high levels of professional competence – and that's good for quality and motivation. When Doris Öhm and her colleagues take a walk through the town, they constantly come across customers who are wearing “their” models – and that's motivation too!



Thanks to smart.pattern, s.Oliver gains time for strategically important tasks. And that's why the company works so intensively with assyst on the development of new macros for smart.pattern.

Best Practice  
Fashion

“Our collections all intermingle and flow with and into one another. The current collection goes into production while the second one is being fine-tuned with prototypes – and while this is going on, we're busy developing the third one. In other words, we have to constantly become more flexible and more efficient – and assyst helps us to do just that.”

Doris Öhm, Head of Model Department, s.Oliver