SAP BusinessObjects™

**SAP Customer Success Story**
Plastics manufacturing

# 3P – PRODUITS PLASTIQUES PERFORMANTS

## STREAMLINED REPORTING WITH SAP® BusinessObjects™ SOLUTION

"The ease of use that SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation offers allows us to operate the solution independently."

**Bernard Louzoun,** Head, 3P Center of Expertise for SAP Solutions, 3P – Produits Plastiques Performants

## QUICK FACTS

**Company**
- Name: 3P – Produits Plastiques Performants
- Location: France
- Industry: Plastics manufacturing
- Products and services: High-performance plastic products
- Revenue: €42 million
- Employees: 245
- Web site: www.3pcorporate.com (French only)
- Implementation partners: Alti S.A., Neo Finance

**Challenges and Opportunities**
- Tailor reporting to meet specific needs of the newly independent company
- Reduce the time taken to produce reports
- Enable nontechnical business users to manage the reporting process
- Provide the flexibility to update reports quickly and easily without needing external help

**Objectives**
- Implement a user-friendly consolidated financial reporting solution
- Establish an interface with existing SAP® software
- Eliminate need for manual input
- Reduce the length of reports, including only relevant information

**SAP Solutions and Services**
SAP BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, and including the starter kit for International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) on the Microsoft platform

**Implementation Highlights**
- Technical installation expertise from Alti
- Financial reporting expertise from Neo Finance
- Significant involvement by customer employees, with over 53% of the total implementation time allocated to in-house staff
- Fast rollout leveraging preconfigured reports in the starter kit

**Why SAP**
- Integration with existing SAP software
- Ease of use for nontechnical users

**Benefits**
- Reduced time required to produce monthly reports by 2 days
- Improved relevance of reporting information, cutting report length by nearly 50%
- Increased flexibility to allow for modification of reports to meet changing decision-making requirements

**Existing Environment**
SAP ERP application

**Third-Party Integration**
- Hardware: Hewlett-Packard
- Operating system: Windows NT

3P PRODUITS PLASTIQUES PERFORMANTS

Following a split from its parent company, 3P – Produits Plastiques Performants wanted to streamline its financial reporting. "We were looking for a solution that would allow us to tailor reports to meet the specific needs of our newly independent business," explains Bernard Louzoun, head of 3P Center of Expertise for SAP solutions. By implementing the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, Langres, France–based 3P improved efficiency and gained the flexibility to change reports quickly and easily when required.

## Complex Reporting Process

3P is a specialist manufacturer of high-performance plastics with operations in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Holland, and China. Its products are designed to withstand corrosion, wear and tear, friction, and extreme temperatures. Companies active in numerous manufacturing industries use them, including automotive and semiconductor firms. Only recently, 3P established itself as a stand-alone business, splitting from parent company Plastic Omnium S.A.

Hampered by a complex and time-consuming financial reporting process that dated back to its time as a subsidiary company of Plastic Omnium, 3P was keen to streamline monthly reporting and improve efficiency. As part of the existing process, financial data for different country divisions using the company's SAP ERP application had to be input manually into a third-party software solution. The third-party solution then generated the monthly consolidated reports for the whole business.

The reports contained more detail than was required by the new stand-alone company, and the specialist nature of the reporting solution meant that any changes had to be made by external specialists. "We wanted to reduce both the complexity of reports and the time taken to produce them," comments Louzoun. "In addition, we wanted to be able to maintain the solution in-house, with nontechnical business personnel being able to make changes quickly as and when required."

## Rapid Rollout

The company decided that SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation would be the best fit to help it fulfill its objectives. "We recognized that easy integration with our existing SAP ERP application would improve the efficiency of the whole reporting process," remarks Louzoun. "In addition, the fact that we could manage the solution ourselves without needing specialist technical skills made the solution very attractive for us." Available in a version for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform or the Microsoft platform, 3P chose the version of SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation for the Microsoft platform.

Experts in the installation and configuration of SAP solutions Alti S.A. joined forces with financial information system specialists Neo Finance to offer strong project support to the internal 3P team. Working towards a deadline that would see all work completed by the beginning of the financial year, the team implemented the solution within a three-and-a-half-month period.

Alongside SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, the team installed a starter kit available for SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation that helps companies set up compliance with International Financial

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Reporting Standards (IFRS) on the Microsoft platform. With preconfigured report templates based on industry best practices, the starter kit is designed to speed up rollouts by reducing the need for extensive setup of standard reports.

"Any delay on this project could have been very disruptive to our day-to-day operations," comments Louzoun. "However, all work was completed by our January 1 deadline and the implementation was a success."

## Time Savings

Now, with the streamlined reporting in effect, monthly consolidated reports consist of just 35 pages, a reduction of almost 50% on the 60 pages produced previously. This provides 3P's management with the information it needs in an efficient way, without having to spend time sifting through pages of reporting that are irrelevant.

Thanks to the integration between SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation and SAP ERP, figures for the consolidated monthly financial report are automatically populated in the reporting software. This eliminates the need for manual input, resulting in significant time savings for the company.

"The interface between our SAP solutions speeds up the reporting process and makes it much more efficient," confirms Louzoun. "This alone is saving us more than two days' work each month."

## User-Friendly Solution

With user-friendly functionality and all reports delivered in Microsoft Excel format, the solution can be managed and maintained by nontechnical business users. This also enabled 3P personnel to be heavily involved in the implementation. They were allocated over 53% of the total time spent on the project.

"The ease of use that SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation offers allows us to operate the solution independently, without incurring ongoing consultancy costs," highlights Louzoun. "It is refreshing to find a software application that can be owned by business users – it is a finance solution rather than an IT solution." He adds: "During the first year, we only required external input three times, and since then we have been able to manage the solution entirely on our own."

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## Improved Decision-Making Support

User-friendly functionality means that 3P personnel can make changes to reports quickly and easily, without outside help. "I can now manage the reporting process myself, and altering the information presented in a report is very straightforward," emphasizes Louzoun. "This means that, going forward, we are in a position to give management the information they need to truly understand our financial position – helping them to make the right decisions."

## Key Role

3P plans to upgrade to the latest version of SAP ERP later this year. It will continue to refine its usage of SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation to provide reports that support business decision making in an efficient and timely manner.

"SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation is playing a key role in supporting our business growth and success," concludes Louzoun. "It is helping us to be more efficient, while giving us the flexibility to update our financial reporting to meet the changing requirements of our organization."

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