Java Republic: SAP® Business One Sweetens the Cup for Irish Coffee Company

Executive overview

Company

Vision

Why SAP

Benefits

Company
Java Republic Roasting Company

Industry
Consumer products – food companies

Products and Services
Hand-roasted coffee, whole leaf teas, herbal and fruit infusions, and hot chocolate, plus coffee brewing equipment, barista training, and a service network covering all of Ireland

Web Site
www.javarepublic.com

SAP® Solutions
SAP® Business One application

Partner
Intelligent Information Systems Ltd. (www.iisystems.net)

David McKernan was inspired by a visit to a famous San Francisco café to found his own coffee roasting company and café in Dublin, Ireland. Over a period of years, the company expanded its operations across Ireland and in the process grew out of its original custom-built back-office software. McKernan and his managing director surveyed the field for a replacement and settled on the SAP® Business One application. What ensued could accurately be described as **the sweet smell of success**.

Executive overview

Company

Vision

Why SAP

Benefits

From San Francisco vision to Dublin reality

In 1995, David McKernan, a passionate coffee enthusiast, visited the famous Caffe Roma on Columbus Avenue in San Francisco. He decided on the spot that he wanted to do something just like it back home in Dublin, Ireland.

Fast forward to September 1999 and voilà – the Java Republic Roasting Company café and roastery, right there in Dublin, just as McKernan envisioned it. Within two years the company became a profitable enterprise; and over the subsequent six years, it expanded its product lines and its range of distribution across the whole of Ireland.

Since then, Java Republic has grown from strength to strength, setting industry standards for ethics in coffee and, in 2008, developing the world's first purpose-built carbon-neutral coffee roastery.

The company currently supplies five wholesale distributors in Ireland, with approximately 1,200 accounts. It employs 32 people at its Dublin head office and a total of 50 nationwide. Revenue for 2011 was approximately €8 million.

Executive overview

Company

Vision

Why SAP

Benefits

Integration, visibility, and timely information

In early 2007, following further extensive growth, McKernan decided that the whole program of operations needed to be reviewed and ultimately changed. "We had an off-the-shelf system that didn't meet our requirements and wasn't giving us the end-of-month reports we needed," he says.

The company had run up against the limits of its back-office software. It was no longer capable of providing accurate and timely management information, and it failed to provide visibility across operations. Disparate systems were causing inefficiencies.

Anticipating further growth, McKernan concluded that it would be necessary to invest in an integrated solution that the company could rely upon going forward. He set out to find a solution that would integrate operations across the business, including production, service, asset management, dispatch, and finance. He wanted improved accuracy, efficiency, and reliability of stock control. And he also intended to gain full visibility with easily accessible, insightful reports.

Java Republic carried out a comprehensive analysis, brought in an external consultant, and reviewed the five top systems. Alongside the available custom-made systems, the standardized yet flexible and readily customizable SAP Business One stood out.

"Our existing system was not integrated in terms of production, stock, sales, and the general ledger for reporting purposes."

David McKernan, Founder and Owner, Java Republic Roasting Company

Executive overview

Company

Vision

Why SAP

Benefits

Affordable, integrated, flexible, and scalable

Having arranged a meeting with Intelligent Information Systems Ltd. (IIS), an SAP gold partner, McKernan developed an immediate rapport and relationship with the IIS managing director.

McKernan and his own managing director visited a number of IIS customer reference sites to see SAP Business One in action. As a result, the selection decision became an obvious one: based on the reputation of IIS and SAP Business One, good references from customers, and the easy relationship with IIS, they chose to implement the SAP software.

Several features combined to convince the Java team that SAP Business One was the way to go. First and foremost, it was affordable. It provided a single, integrated application that covered all the company's business needs. It was flexible and scalable, and it offered substantial reporting functionality and an intuitive user interface. It was fast. And after the company's experiences with a locally produced solution, management really liked the fact that it was an established brand.

"We wanted to make sure that we had a solution that was nearly bulletproof after our experience with our previous custom-built system and its provider."

David McKernan, Founder and Owner, Java Republic Roasting Company

Executive overview

Company

Vision

Why SAP

Benefits

Full control of business operations

Implementing SAP Business One has brought Java Republic significant benefits by delivering full control of business operations to management. Inventory information and accuracy has improved. The flexible solution has met the company's requirements and supported it during a steep growth period. It has provided clear visibility, improved efficiency of operations, and helped ensure that all the processes interact correctly.

Complete management information can now be readily accessed with the comprehensive reporting functionality of the system. Screen layouts, processing speed, and intuitive user interfaces have been well received across the organization.

Operations have become more complex since the initial implementation of SAP Business One, but the solution has provided the ideal platform, powering business development and allowing Java to take its business to the next level. In the interim, the company has continued to expand its product range, which now encompasses a wide selection of specialty real-leaf teas and hot chocolate as well as the company's highly regarded coffees.

McKernan remains convinced that his plans for innovation and his aspirations for the business will be enabled and supported by SAP Business One and IIS, allowing Java Republic to do what it does best, even better.

CMP17618 (12/05)

Copyright/Trademark | Privacy | Impressum