GRUPO ANTOLIN

ACCELERATING TOWARD BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WITH SAP® SOFTWARE

QUICK FACTS

Industry
Automotive

Revenue
€2.13 billion

Employees
9,000

Headquarters
Madrid, Spain

Web Site
www.grupoantolin.com

SAP® Solutions and Services
SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application and in-house cash management functionality in the SAP ERP application to support financial management and planning

Running 88 plants and 20 offices across 23 countries, Grupo Antolin is one of the largest suppliers of automobile interiors to carmakers all over the world. As part of a larger business transformation initiative, the group implemented SAP® software to improve data quality and visibility and consolidate global financial processes. As a result, it has significantly increased efficiency, enhanced planning efforts, and reduced risk by minimizing errors.

Key Challenges

- Streamline financial consolidation processes for a globally dispersed organization
- Improve accuracy of financial forecasts by improving data quality
- Increase transparency into cash availability across multiple bank accounts worldwide

Why SAP Was Selected

- Proven software with the best functionality in the market
- Native integration with preexisting SAP® business enterprise software
- The company's long-term strategic relationship with SAP and a high level of comfort with the technology

Implementation Best Practices

- Used a global template to expedite deployment enterprise-wide
- Broke project into multiple phases
- Deployed software using virtualization technology
- Used a train-the-trainer approach to expedite change management and user adoption

Low Total Cost of Ownership

- Completed each phase in a matter of months
- Reduced shadow IT tasks previously executed by finance department
- Reduced hardware costs by 70%

Leveraged a virtualization approach to reduce operational costs and energy consumption

Financial and Strategic Benefits

- Vastly increased efficiency of critical financial management processes
- Improved the quality of financial data, minimizing data management costs
- Enhanced decision making by improving visibility into financial data
- Enabled faster, more accurate financial forecasting
- Realized 40% savings in annual financial fees due to reductions in number of bank accounts and credit needs
- Gained real-time visibility into bank accounts for more accurate cash availability analyses

Operational Benefits

Key Performance Indicator	Impact
Consolidation errors	-90%
Time spent on consolidation tasks	-60%
Financial forecast accuracy	+60%
Transaction management processes	+60% faster
Financial planning	+40% faster

"With SAP software, we have been able to improve visibility of financial data and consolidate our financial tasks company-wide. This has helped us cut costs and improve efficiency across all global operations – and enhance forecasting."

Carlos M. Arozamena, Corporate IT Director, Grupo Antolin

www.sap.com/contactsap

The Inside of the Car Industry

Foldable car seats, doors with high-end electronics, even multifunctional luggage compartments – if you drive, your car might be equipped with one of these interior components manufactured by Grupo Antolin.

To best serve the global automobile industry, this company maintains operations in Europe, North and South America, and the Asia-Pacific region. When it comes to financial management, having such a far-flung organization poses significant challenges.

Using manual processes based on e-mail and spreadsheets, Grupo Antolin dedicated tremendous resources to the consolidation of financial statements from plants and offices around the world. Poor visibility into financial data made it difficult to generate accurate financial forecasts and to assess cash availability. This led to high borrowing costs.

The Drive to Standardize

To address these challenges, Grupo Antolin wanted to standardize financial management processes, improve the quality of financial data, and increase data transparency. To aid this effort, it chose the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application and in-house cash management functionality found in the SAP ERP application.

It helped that these solutions natively integrated into the company's growing SAP software footprint. Based on previous experience, Grupo was also comfortable with SAP as both a technology provider and a strategic business partner.

On the Road to Business Transformation

The implementation project involved three phases, each of which took just a matter of months. During phase one, the company implemented the SAP BusinessObjects software to centralize financial consolidation processes. This helped minimize shadow IT tasks previously managed by the finance department. It also enabled automation that accelerated consolidation tasks and increased financial data transparency.

In phase two, the group introduced greater accuracy into the financial planning and forecasting process by establishing clear, straightforward data standards. This helped Grupo Antolin reduce complexity, minimize data management costs, and establish a single version of the truth.

During phase three, the company deployed the SAP software for in-house cash management, improving visibility into bank accounts all over the world.

Grupo Antolin also decided to run the new software on virtualized servers, helping to save 70% on hardware costs. It was the first company in Spain to run SAP solutions in a virtualized context.

In the Driver's Seat

The company has reaped other benefits as well. For example, it has reduced consolidation errors by 90% and the time spent on consolidation tasks by 60%. This freed up resources to focus on more value-adding activities. A more effective consolidation process, meanwhile, has enabled better and timelier business decisions.

Similarly, the company has cut financial planning time by 40% while increasing forecast accuracy by 60%. It has reduced the amount of time employees spend managing financial transactions by 60% as well. And because it has been able to consolidate bank accounts throughout the organization, Grupo Antolin has cut annual financial fees by 40%. For the same reason, the company now has greater visibility into available cash, which means it borrows less and makes more effective use of working capital.

The Road Ahead

Based on this success, Grupo Antolin plans to make smart use of other SAP solutions in the future. For example, the company is interested in SAP BusinessObjects software for analytics, balanced scorecards, and other critical business functionality. The transformation continues.

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