



## BG GROUP

# NATURAL GAS FIRM MASTERS GOVERNANCE WITH SAP® SOFTWARE, REALIZES FAST ROI

### QUICK FACTS

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**Dabir Meah**, Manager,

SAP Customer Competence Center, BG Group

#### Company

- Name: BG Group
- Location: Reading, England
- Industry: Oil and gas
- Products and services: Natural gas, from exploration through delivery
- Revenue: US\$14.8 billion
- Employees: 5,500
- Web site: [www.bg-group.com](http://www.bg-group.com)
- Implementation partner: Accenture (Warwick, England)

#### Challenges and Opportunities

- Compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley Act for New York Stock Exchange listing
- Reduction in time and costs associated with governance

#### Objective

Install solution for continuous monitoring of segregation of duties

#### SAP® Solution and Services

SAP® GRC Access Control application

#### Implementation Highlights

- 4-day install, massively under budget
- Collaboration between staff at SAP Customer Competence Center location and business process owners to identify and remove risks
- Customizations for company-specific transactions
- Installation of mitigating controls

#### Why SAP

- Seamless integration with SAP software
- Real-time, continuous monitoring
- Easy-to-tailor functionality for accommodating company-specific transactions and mitigating controls
- Easy maintenance

#### Benefits

- Fast ROI
- Low total cost of ownership
- Less workload and costs for governance and external audits
- Ongoing compliance through future SAP software upgrades

#### Existing Environment

- No governance application – relied on external audits
- SAP Business Suite family of business applications

#### Third-Party Integration

- Database: Oracle
- Hardware: HP
- Operating system: Microsoft Windows



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SAP Customer Success Story  
Oil and Gas – Natural Gas



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BG Group faced a governance challenge: ensure segregation of duties (SoD) across a global natural gas business that includes operations in 25 countries and 5 continents, with more than 60% of management working outside the corporate headquarters in Reading, England. The SAP® GRC Access Control application made the job easy.

“We are listed in the United States, so we’re bound by Sarbanes-Oxley Act regulations,” says Dabir Meah, manager for the SAP Customer Competence Center (SAP CCC) location at BG Group. “SAP GRC Access Control ensures that we are continuously compliant with these governance requirements. This has reduced the workload on my staff and made my life much less stressful because we can now easily show auditors that we don’t have segregation of duties issues.”

BG Group uses SAP GRC Access Control to test and enforce segregation of duties and to monitor critical transactions across its enterprise. The application automatically detects violations and provides workflow to resolve exceptions and deficiencies. By simulating and analyzing proposed changes in user access authorizations, it prevents new risks from entering enterprise applications.

BG Group installed SAP GRC Access Control in four days. The project team and business process owners used the software’s SoD rules to uncover and remove conflicts. They also created custom rules for company-specific transactions. Some 1,200 global business process owners and a four-person SAP CCC security contingent now use the application. Business users who want access to transactions perform a simulation in SAP GRC Access Control prior to making their requests. If there is a conflict, they see it immediately. Says Meah, “This filters out a lot of queries, so we rarely have to refuse any requests.”

The security team uses SAP GRC Access Control to process the access requests, grant support specialists predefined authorization to access SAP enterprise business software to resolve user issues, and analyze roles and users on an ongoing basis. The team generates daily management governance reports and is well prepared for the biannual external audits.

“The fact that we run SAP GRC Access Control assures our auditors that we are complying with Sarbanes-Oxley, so they don’t need to run their own compliance tools anymore,” Meah says. “In the past, the auditors would spend 20 working days looking at segregation of duties, and we would spend 5 to 10 days working with them. We are saving a lot by eliminating this effort.”

Meah then adds, “SAP GRC Access Control also provided a quick return on investment – we implemented on time and massively under budget. The cost of ownership is also incredibly low. In the four and a half years we’ve had the application, my team has only made two calls for support. SAP GRC Access Control is easy to use and incredibly easy to maintain. Once you remove your SoD conflicts and are ‘clean,’ it is a very easy and painless process to stay clean.”



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Dabir Meah, Manager, SAP Customer Competence Center, BG Group

## Real-Time Monitoring Drives Selection

BG Group evaluated a number of solutions before making its choice. “The clincher was that SAP GRC Access Control is tightly integrated with the SAP business enterprise software,” Meah says. “With the other solutions, you had to download information and perform the simulation in their tools, then go back into the SAP business software to provide user access. SAP GRC Access Control ensures real-time, continuous monitoring. The information you had in the other products was only as good as the point in time when you performed the download.”

BG Group also liked the fact that it could adjust SoD controls for mitigating circumstances. “We have offices overseas where there might only be six people, so you are going to get some SoD conflicts,” Meah says. “For example, you don’t want someone who is entering invoice information to make payments. In this situation, we use SAP GRC Access Control to institute mitigating controls – like requiring the payment checks to be independently signed by finance managers who review the requisitions, purchase orders, and invoices.”

BG Group recently upgraded to the newest version of SAP GRC Access Control. Says Meah, “We stay current with each release, which includes the latest SoD rule sets. This database is developed by SAP and the audit firms, based on both their experiences with customers, to ensure comprehensive compliance.”

BG Group will next automate approval workflow for access change requests. Users will complete forms in their browsers, triggering automated e-mails for approval. “If approved, the requested changes will automatically flow to my team to set up access,” Meah says.

That’s the kind of ease of use everyone at BG Group appreciates. Concludes Meah, “Our business process owner in Finance told me that this has been the most valuable implementation – because SAP GRC Access Control has solved so many problems.”



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