

OLD WORLD INDUSTRIES

SPEEDING DELIVERY OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS

QUICK FACTS

Industries

Chemicals, automotive

Revenue

Over US\$1 billion

Employees

200

Headquarters

Northbrook, Illinois

Web Site

www.oldworldind.com

SAP® Solution and Services

SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation application

Implementation Partner

Aster Group Inc.

Key Challenges

- Automate manual, spreadsheet-based processes for generating financial statements
- Unify disparate data sources
- Replace multiple tools with a single, comprehensive application
- Resolve data integrity issues

Implementation Best Practices

- Consolidated disparate data sources into 1 repository
- Used a phased implementation approach
- Provided knowledge transfer to get end users up and running quickly
- Took advantage of well-known Excel-based user interface to ease transition

Financial and Strategic Benefits

- Greatly sped up the delivery of actionable information
- Improved data integrity and accuracy
- Allowed more time for value-added analysis
- Provided quick financial statement variance analysis
- Utilized drill-through feature to link to accounts payable images

Why SAP Was Selected

- Easy to deploy, Web-based application
- Familiarity of the user interface
- Ability to provide basis for financial, performance, and operational analysis

Low Total Cost of Ownership

- Eliminated legacy systems
- Reduced number of systems and interfaces
- Achieved rapid deployment
- Realized quick time to benefit

Operational Benefits

Key Performance Indicator	Impact
Month-end closing time	-2 to -3 days
Time to provide additional month-end reports	-8 hours
Daily business reporting time	From 10 person-hours to seconds

In the past, chemicals and automotive products leader Old World Industries Inc. used spreadsheets and manual processes to consolidate financial results from its 10 divisions and 33 legal entities – a lengthy, error-prone process. To save time and speed month-end closing, Old World adopted the SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation application. Old World is using this software to report actuals and for budgeting, forecasting, and key performance indicator analysis.



Old World Industries, Inc.

“SAP Business Planning and Consolidation saves a lot of time and eliminates many opportunities for something to go wrong. Previously, it was organized chaos.”

Jason Schieffer, Financial Reporting Manager, Old World Industries Inc.

www.sap.com/contactsap

Old World Industries Inc. is a global provider of chemical and automotive products and the leading distributor of antifreeze in the United States. Since the company comprises 10 distinct divisions that compile financial data separately using four disparate data source systems, combining results to produce overall corporate results was a monumental undertaking. To simplify, automate, and expedite this process, and to add analytic reporting functionality, Old World has adopted the SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation application.

A House of Cards

In the past, preparation of monthly financial statements was frustrating and time-consuming. Data from the divisions was manually pasted into spreadsheets, which could contain thousands of rows, and then manually input into a “shared” spreadsheet to produce monthly financial statements. The spreadsheet provided no audit help, and only one person could get into it at a time. “You could be finished with your division’s report by 2:00 p.m. and not be able to get into the spreadsheet until 5:30 p.m.,” explains Jason Schieffer, financial reporting manager. “And if one person made a mistake, everything could fall apart like a house of cards.”

To rectify this situation, Old World called in Aster Group Inc., which recommended SAP Business Planning and Consolidation

because of its deployment ease; the strength of its financial management, performance measurement, and operational management functionality; and its ability to deliver results quickly and easily.

A New Way for Old World

Old World’s initial vision was to use the application for reporting actuals. However, the company soon expanded the initiative to include budgeting and forecasting. “Once we got up and running,” states Alison Eder, accounting supervisor, “we saw the potential for so much more.”

Old World’s daily business reporting process, which used to take 10 person-hours per day to complete, now takes seconds. The company is saving two to three days in the month-end close process and at least eight more hours in producing additional financial reports. And time saved isn’t the only benefit; the accuracy of the data has also increased.

Getting a Good Return

Old World’s return on investment was almost immediate. Aster Group’s knowledge transfer allowed users to begin using SAP Business Planning and Consolidation quickly and equipped them to tailor the application as required for their own specific needs. The Excel interface made things easy. “Everyone knows Excel,” asserts Eder. “You are not learning completely new software.”

Accountants are now analysts rather than data entry clerks, and the financial staff can quickly provide relevant and actionable information to leadership. “With SAP Business Planning and Consolidation, you can see how everything flows,” says Schieffer. “Now when you are in a meeting and the CFO asks you a question, instead of taking hours or even days to get the answer, you can have it in seconds. We are very excited about SAP Business Planning and Consolidation.”

Implementation Partner

Aster Group is a leading business and technology consulting firm specializing in the SAP Business Planning and Consolidation application. Aster’s team of finance experts has built over 300 business planning and consolidation applications for more than 130 clients throughout the United States and Canada.

aster group™ 

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