



Case Study: Dürr Group

International Group Reporting

The Company

Dürr is one of the world's leading suppliers of products, systems and services, mainly for automobile manufacturing. The range of products covers important stages of vehicle production; as a systems supplier, Dürr plans and builds complete paint shops and final assembly facilities. The company also delivers cleaning and filtration systems for the manufacture of engine and transmission components as well as balancing systems and products for the final vehicle assembly. Dürr is directly represented in 21 countries and generated annual sales revenues of approx. € 1.5 billion in 2007. Dürr employs around 6000 people.

The Requirements: International Reporting with SAP Data

The Dürr Group's multinational presence (in 21 countries) allows the corporation to provide advice to and attend to their customers locally. The central administration is handled by their holding company in Stuttgart; corporate control is taken on by the Dürr System GmbH, which recently implemented a sophisticated customized solution for planning, reporting and consolidation. The primary goal was to automate as many processes pertaining to the monthly reporting for 120 linked businesses as possible. The migration to IFRS with SAP was a determining factor – an adoption the Dürr Group plans to make on a global level.

The solution: P&L with Palo

The control department in Stuttgart built an integrated solution with Palo OLAP Server, Hyperion Financial Management and Cubeware Importer. The source data originates primarily from SAP R/3, SAP BW and separate Excel files. The consolidation of the Business Units as legal entities is handled with the use of Hyperion. Since an analysis on the profit centers' operational level is not supported by Hyperion, a current month P&L per profit center is compiled with Palo OLAP Server in parallel.



The Dürr Group is represented in 21 countries. Corporate Control in Stuttgart has implemented a Best-of-Breed-solution for their group reporting, automating data flows for planning, reporting and consolidation. One of the key components is Palo OLAP Server, which is used to project the up-to-date P&L of the profit centers for the current month. Using Palo saves considerable efforts both in gathering and processing data as well as making structural adjustments in the planning and reporting process.

SYSTEM

- PALO OLAP SERVER
- SAP R/3
- SAP BW
- CUBEWARE IMPORTER
- HYPERION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ORACLE)

»Our international reporting and the planning of profit centers is now fully automated with Palo OLAP Server. For the monthly reporting, we are now able to retrieve 25,000 key figures from all Business Units within 7 minutes, at the touch of a button.«

Wilfried Wirkner, Central Controlling at Dürr Systems GmbH

Project Leader Wilfried Wirkner: *»Palo OLAP Server is a key component of our group reporting. It allows us to accomplish reporting and planning of our profit centers in a flexible and efficient manner. Palo's simple integration helped us to implement a complete controlling cycle – right up to group consolidation.«*

Corporate Control at Dürr Systems GmbH was able to establish the reporting system without outside support. With Palo, implementing the P&L – the basis for monthly reporting, forecasting, current month planning on profit center level and annual planning complete with scenario-building – only took Project Leader Wilfried Wirkner three months to accomplish. For the bottom-up planning, data are entered into Excel, which serves as the front end of Palo. Palo then provides the consolidated key figures per profit center; separate cubes with actual and planning data were created for that reason.

Automated Data Flow

Wilfried Wirkner uses Palo OLAP Server to obtain a flexible representation and analysis of the P&L and as the integration tool to process the complete controlling cycle. Data in Palo are stored in identical structures like the consolidation tool Hyperion Financial Management (HFM). Palo is preceding the consolidation and Palo manages the transfer and conversion of data from the source systems (mainly SAP data) into HFM-conform data sets with the help of Cubeware Importer.

The Result: Monthly Reporting at the Touch of a Button

The automated data flows save Corporate Control considerable effort in gathering data. Wilfried Wirkner is able to manage the monthly reporting without additional resources. The compilation of the required 25,000 key figures from various countries is fully automated and available at the touch of a button within approx. seven minutes; only minor rounding errors are adjusted manually.

Wilfried Wirkner estimates: *»Previously, the monthly reporting took 4 days. Now, it is available within 2 hours. In addition to saving effort, of course, the prompt availability and timeliness of the reports and analyses is a huge profit to us.«*

A resource-saving and prompt implementation of planning and reporting processes is supported by the straight-forward administration and flexibility of Palo: *»Variations in the pattern of planning can be implemented easily with Palo. Instead of 3 weeks, we now need only 1 day. The planning and budget changeover of annual and monthly values is taken care of within half a day.«*



Monthly P&L Reporting



Turnover per Region



P&L total

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