Success Story:

Clariant Discovers a New Element for its Budget Planning Needs

Clariant is a worldwide leader in specialty chemicals, with headquarters in Muttenz near Basel/ Switzerland. Clariant is represented on five continents by more than 100 group companies and employs approx. 18,000 people.

The business is organized in four divisions: Textile, leather & paper chemicals, pigments & additives, masterbatches and process chemicals. Clariant caters almost exclusively to the manufacturing industry, e.g. automobile, construction, electronics, cosmetics, synthetics, crop protection, pharmaceuticals or textile.

The Challenge

Clariant had recently restructured its corporate-wide budget-planning. In the process it had switched from the conventional approach of planning its budget bottom-up to target setting, i.e. taking a top-down approach.

This approach ensures a consistent orientation of Clariant's planning with the higher-level corporate strategy. In order to meet the requirements of budget planning through a top-down approach, however, a solution was needed to replace the previous planning tool Clariant was using.

The new tool was to include functionalities required for a top-down approach, such as splashing. It was to be in form of an intranet solution. And last but not least, the solution had to be quickly and easily deployed. Given the size of the corporation – more than 100 group companies, with a presence on all five continents – the new solution would also

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have to meet the needs of a complex, decentralized environment.

The Solution

To tackle these challenges, Clariant selected a leading open source business intelligence software solution. One of the deciding factors was the solution's ability to integrate with Microsoft Excel. The solution also not only met all of the other technical requirements set by Clariant, but it was one that could be implemented in a matter of just a few weeks.

The Results

With the new business intelligence solution in place, the Group Finance department has been able to achieve its goals. Under the department's direction, approximately 100 employees worldwide work on the annual budget planning in line with the new target-setting approach.

Group controllers can enter the key data for planning centrally. They receive detailed planning information from the controllers of the divisional, regional and country levels.

Regardless of location, everyone can access the information they need via an Internet browser. The new BI solution was successfully introduced in Group Finance in less than eight weeks. Employees can now focus on their actual planning tasks instead of merging and dispatching the Excel spreadsheets generated by the old solution.

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