

Manufacturer of PVC Pipe Implements Microsoft Dynamics AX to Improve Operations while Leveraging Key In-House Systems

A leading manufacturer of PVC pipe with seven manufacturing locations sought a fully integrated ERP and manufacturing system to improve their operations while leveraging their investments in existing .NET based in-house systems.



Main Objective

The customer required a system that could integrate to the plant's in-house Plant Tracking System so that Purchasing, Receiving, and Production transactions could be captured and reconciled. Integration to their in-house Order Fulfillment System was also required to allow order fulfillment statuses to be captured and reconciled for invoicing.

Customer Results

Microsoft Dynamics AX was implemented by MAVERICK and the project met all required objectives. The customer now has a solution with a solid roadmap for future enhancements and support, which will easily accommodate the customer's plans for tremendous growth in the future.

Application Description

- Technology Used:
 - Microsoft Dynamics AX Advanced Management Suite
 - Windows 2003
 - SQL Server 2005
 - SQL Reporting Services
 - Thin Client
 - N-tiered Architecture using multiple Application Object Servers
- The client had already invested in developing .NET based systems to handle their unique requirements around Production Tracking and Order Fulfillment. The Microsoft Dynamics AX Advanced Management Suite handled Accounting and Finance, Sales Order Processing, Purchasing and Receiving.
- The company operates with a very lean IT staff and the solution required minimizing the IT involvement. They required a solution that would position their organization for future growth without requiring an increase in staff
- It was critical that the system be configured to handle the unique demands of PVC pipe manufacturing:
 - Complex item dimensions of pipe (inside and outside wall diameters, wall thickness, strength, chemical composition, length, and test reports) in the inventory item master – for quoting, sales orders, planning and fulfillment.
 - Scrap, Waste and Regrind process
 - Unique costing and inventory management issues in the plastics industry
- Maintenance of the legacy system required a full-time employee. This burden meant the team didn't have the time needed to address other important projects that could positively impact the business. Support of the AX solution required about one-fourth of the time of the legacy system.
- The flexibility of the Microsoft Dynamics AX solution allows the customer to easily make changes as their business requirements dictate. Their internal staff can add fields, move fields within screens and between screens, consolidate screens, etc. without relying on outside support. The team can now adjust and streamline operations as necessary.

The MAVERICK Difference

MAVERICK was able to integrate the Microsoft Dynamic to the customer's in-house system. This project complied with the customer requirements and accommodated capabilities for future expansion.