

Oracle Based New Consolidation System Improves Performance, Easy to Use & with current technology

ADOR WELDING LIMITED (AWL) is India's leader in the field of Welding Products, Technologies & Services. Over the last 50 years. AWL has successfully built a brand that is recognized for Quality & Services in over 40 Countries today. With six manufacturing plants, a comprehensive distribution & highly acclaimed Centre for Welding Excellence CWE, AWL continues to provide the highest level of Customer Satisfaction. The Project Engineering Division (PED) is also gaining strong repute in providing world class Environmental Engineering products & Welding Automation Systems. AWL set out to replace an old Unify/Accel based application developed in 1994 as the support for old hardware and application was no more available. Besides running an old business critical application without any trained and experienced staff was a huge risk. The objective was to convert the old application into new Oracle Based application and eliminating the need of trained staff by making the application user friendly and intuitive.

Situation

Over fifty years ago, **Ador Welding Ltd.** took roots as an electrode manufacturing company at a time when welding was little known as an industry. It was indeed an uphill task to identify various areas of welding applications and thereafter meet the parameters of specific jobs with specific welding products. **Ador Welding Ltd's** pioneering spirit spurred the organization from one stage of expertise to another. As more and more welding application areas were catered to, the urge to enter specialized areas of welding as in the case of core industries, elevated the company to the high end range of welding products. The company foresaw the need to offer Total Solutions in welding well in advance, to ensure total compatibility of consumables, power sources and accessories. Today, in India's welding history, **Ador Welding Ltd.** holds a unique position as a pioneer and leader having grown both in strength and technology to be able to cater to complex requirements in welding projects not only in India but the world over. Since AWL had a strong market presence the New Consolidation System has to stand the test of times along with requirement of both Sales and accounts. All Business Intelligence reports were needed to come from new system which was previously coming from Unify/Accel based application with out any downtime. Besides the poor interface, the original application had no technical support from any quarters at a reasonable cost. Besides this the source of data was from various application used by various sales offices and plants. The application running at the sales office was changed due to keep up with latest technology. This change of applications at source locations was to be considered at the time of designing of New Consolidation System. Also new requirement cannot be catered by the old system as AWL grew beyond its applications capacity. The consolidating of data and generating data was taking very long time due to multiple steps involved in the process.

Solution

In Dec 2004 Ador Welding Limited decided to change the application from Unify/Accel to Oracle 9i with Developer 2000 Forms 6 as front end and Report Writer 6 as the reporting tool. The tool was selected keeping in mind the portability of the application in future in case AWL goes live with their current enterprise application used in the location. The challenge was to bridge the technological gaps due to different application and vast geographical presence of AWL facilities. Keeping this in mind PBS decided not to change the legacy process of sending data which was through delimited file. As changing this would have incurred more cost in implementing the solution and high cost to train peoples and support. By not changing the process at the AWL sales office and plants ensured that the process of sending the data was not changed hence no additional cost. PBS collected Flat files for all the process and started the standardization process as the file were coming in different formats from different location. All the flat files were standardized with proper file name format for all the location and process. Secondly the challenge

was to freeze a standard format as the old system formats were obsolete and change request was not entertained due to non availability of technical skills to support the application. All the basic reports formats were collected and circulated for any enhancement in the current layout of the report. Also all the new report layouts were collected from the AWL which were not available in old system. PBS developed an application extensively using *Views* of Oracle 9i. PBS drastically reduced the turn around time by 75%. The entire sale data which took 2 days to process was reduced to 4 Hrs. The data gets validated automatically at the time of upload hence saving time. An exception report is generated for displaying all errors in data received from location like incorrect location codes, non matching JV or data not available in master at New Consolidation System. The entire accounting data is processed in the system and all accounting reports are generated by the New Consolidation System. The accounting consolidation is completed in one day which was previously done in 4 working days. The new consolidation system saved cost and valuable time and giving information faster and giving extra time to define new sales strategy and implementing it.

Conclusion

The new consolidation system developed by Pineapple Business Solutions not only eliminated the risk of fading technology but also providing them with a superior technology. The reduction in cost was tremendous and guaranteed uptime of the application. The feature of Oracle database was extensively used to develop the project. The cost on stationary is also reduced by saving the output files in PDF files for future reference and can be send through email instead of printouts through costly and secured transport mode.