Public Utility Warehouse Management System (WMS) Requirements Definition and System Selection

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

Faced with the difficult challenge of replacing a 20-year-old legacy warehouse management system, this public utility client engaged Spinnaker to lead requirements definition, solution architecture and the evaluation of potential warehouse management system (WMS) providers. Without the transformation from the legacy system, the client was worried that it would not be able to manage continuing growth and would be susceptible to mission-critical failures in its materials distribution processes. Additionally, the client desired to modernize and enhance its warehousing and distribution capabilities in ways not supported by the legacy system.

APPROACH

The project was conducted in an eight-week timeframe. It leveraged key stakeholder inputs garnered from site visits and workshops conducted with client personnel and industry best practice research to define a comprehensive solution that met the needs of facilities ranging from distribution centers to generation plants to remote material yards. Spinnaker leveraged its experience with numerous supply chain software implementations to lead the requirements definition, solution blueprint, module evaluation and business case development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed and documented comprehensive business and functional requirements
- Presented a thorough review of the functional differences among the various SAP modules
- Developed standard capability profiles and solution architecture for each facility type
- Identified more than $50 million in supply chain inventory and cost reductions resulting from the implementation of a new system
Spinnaker provided a comprehensive set of business and functional requirements representing all stakeholders and facility types, along with a detailed evaluation of those requirements against the specific capabilities of the warehouse management modules under consideration. The solution was architected within an SAP environment and included elements of ECC 6.0, LE/WM and EWM. Spinnaker also supported the client in developing the business case and ROI for the replacement of the legacy system. Implementation of the solution is currently underway with completion targeted by the end of 2011.

Spinnaker is a global leader in supply chain consulting and execution services. We deliver supply chain excellence with world-class people, processes, technology and operational know-how.

Founded in 2002, Spinnaker operates on two guiding principles – measure our success by our client’s accomplishments and treat every situation with honesty and integrity. It’s from these guiding principles that Spinnaker has been able to achieve tremendous growth.

Spinnaker has worked with entrepreneurial start-ups to Fortune 100 enterprises in industries such as Energy/Oil & Gas, Consumer Products & Retail, High Tech & Semiconductor, Industrial Manufacturing, Medical & Pharmaceutical, and Telecommunications. We combine our vast supply chain and business process knowledge with industry best practices to deliver solutions that drive tangible results for our clients.

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