

CASE STUDY: WEIR ENGINEERING

ENHANCING ERP WITH QLIK

Qlik business intelligence for executive dashboards and ERP user-customisable detail reporting.



Weir Services are part of The Weir Group PLC, a FTSE 250 global engineering solutions company. The Weir Group employs just under 8,000 people worldwide across five divisions in closely aligned, independently successful companies, each with leading brand name products in their own sectors.

In addition to Weir Services, divisions include Weir Minerals, Weir Clear Liquid, Weir Valves & Controls, and Weir Defence, Nuclear & Gas.

Weir Services provide maintenance and service not only for Weir products but all major equipment brands as well, and are a leading provider of equipment maintenance, process support and asset management to meet a broad spectrum of customer and process demands.

ISSUE:

ERP REPORTING GAP

For years, Weir Services shared an ERP system with the Group's Weir Pumps manufacturing business. The division recognized a need to implement their

own ERP solution for their nine facilities in the U.K, two facilities in the Middle East, and potentially other facilities around the world.

Part of the defined requirements for selecting a new solution was a reporting tool capable of delivering quick, executive-level, dashboard views of division operations and finances – internal business intelligence – to ensure Weir Services operates at optimal performance levels.

SOLUTION:

QLIK BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

The evaluation finalists included Qlik, which was already in place at WeirCanada, Inc., a division of Weir Services serving North America, which was complementing its Movex ERP system.

Following up on Weir Canada's recommendation, Weir Services investigated QlikView through QlickiT, a leading BI consultancy and Qlik specialist. "QlickiT gave a comprehensive demonstration of Qlik and our team visited Weir Canada to

Canada to see their implementation," said Nigel Tasker, Head of IS Change Management at Weir Group Ltd.

"We evaluated other ERP systems and reporting tools, but agreed with Weir Canada's recommendation of Movex with Qlik after working with QlickiT and having a first-hand look at the North American installation. In addition to presales, QlickiT helped with implementation, training, advice on report development, and remain available to us through an ongoing relationship."

OUTCOMES:

COMPLETE OPERATIONAL VISIBILITY

Since the ERP implementation, Qlik has proven its value – from the essential KPI reports to the now more than 50 reports supporting 300 users.

QlikView is applied beyond ERP reporting by integrating data from Weir's Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) Management System. And because the implementation is web-based, timely reporting can be shared across facilities and

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STREAMLINED INVENTORY AND LABOR UTILISATION

Using Qlik, an inventory manager can now see stock across warehouses, recognize surpluses and outages, and avoid unnecessary purchases.

Receipts for stock usage can be viewed daily; non-conforming goods that fail incoming inspection can be tracked more easily; and all work to optimise inventory levels and reduce various carrying costs. Qlik is also used to identify over and under staffing and shift resources according to need.

“The combination of the new ERP system and Qlik reporting has provided more process control and visibility to improve our business performance,” said Tasker. “We have information readily at hand to operate at higher efficiencies.”

EMPOWERED EMPLOYEES, LESS BURDEN FOR IT

“Before Qlik, we had no concept of end-users being able to customize their own reports. With Qlik, we create base reports with filters that allow users to drill to any level of detail they need.

They can do their own customized reporting and this is certainly something that can't be done with other reporting tools,” said Tasker.

Two of Tasker's 12 IT staff are dedicated to reporting tools and, with Qlik, are not experiencing the backlogs of the past.

“Flexibility is key,” he advises. “Qlik has the flexibility to create base reports that anticipate future needs, from which users can design their own reporting. Qlik also provides a truer picture of our ERP database content.

Clearly, we are very satisfied with Qlik and it's ability to provide information on which we can make informed business decisions”.

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