3E WORKS FASTER THANKS TO SAP BUSINESS ONE

PROJECT

Partner
Aztalan

Requirements

- Integrated ERP for project management
- Flexible tool which supports fast growth
- More safety of data and results

Solution

- SAP Business One & ProjectManagement solution (MARIProject from MARINGO)

Benefits

- Project Dashboard delivers direct management reporting
- Much less manual work
- Guaranteed flawless data
- All data are linked, enabling data mining
- 30% time saving for accounting department

3E helps organisations develop strategies and projects related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. The team consists of experts in various disciplines, who partly work on location at the client's site. To ensure the smooth operation of all projects, 3E has relied on SAP Business One & ProjectManagement, an integrated ERP solution tailored to growing, ambitious companies, since 2009.

Although 3E was created only in 1999, it now counts 100 employees and offices in Belgium, France, Turkey, China and South Africa. In other words: the company is growing rapidly. Until 2008 the computer system managing the projects was not up to the task. Monthly reporting, for example, still required a lot of manual work. Consequently, an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution became imperative. 3E analysed the different packages on the market and decided to go with SAP Business One. „For us, this package really stood head and shoulders above the rest," says Gween Cristens, Head of Accounting at 3E. „It not only offers the necessary functionalities, but also presents them in an understandable manner. Furthermore, SAP is the market leader and is highly recognised, which gave us the necessary confidence."

Functionality and user friendliness

"Another factor that convinced us was the knowledge and experience that integration partner Aztalan has shown in similar projects," continues Cristens. "They proposed us the additional ProjectManagement solution, a completion to the ERP package that allows us to manage our projects perfectly. The system was implemented in about four weeks and in January 2009 we had already started using the new package. We needed some time to adjust, as is the case with any new system, but after a short training all project managers saw the clear added value of the new way of working. Both the functionality and user friendliness were met with enthusiasm. For example, the direct entry of the completed hours into the SAP ProjectManagement solution is beneficial to all parties: project managers now have a formal entry system and the accounting department does not need to collect and copy all data."

Quick retrieval of information

Contrary to the previous package used by 3E, SAP Business One offers a complete integrated environment where all data are available in a quick manner. Cristens states: "SAP Business One has a clear structure. Everything is linked to each other, making it very easy to find out where certain information comes from. The ProjectManagement solution, too, fits perfectly into the picture. Furthermore, SAP Business One also offers security. A booked item is in the system, without any discussion. This seems evident, but the previous system allowed for easy data deletion, which could result in severe accounting errors."

Time saving for the accounting department

The benefits for 3E are, however, not limited to data management. Data reporting, too, has become a lot more efficient. On the one hand because of the direct availability of data and on the other by avoiding manual work. "Delivering monthly reports used to take days of work: first all data needed to be entered into Excel, only then could the calculations start. The risk of making mistakes was therefore very high. With SAP Business One all data are available ad hoc. Through the Project Dashboard we can retrieve results in no time. Both the management team and the investors can receive ad hoc operational and financial data at any time. This gives direct insight into profitability, which can be very useful for investors", says Cristens.

For 3E the current implementation of SAP Business One is not an ending. "It is our ambition to start using the package more broadly. After all, the programme contains quite a few features we find interesting but haven't discovered yet. The CRM and cash flow possibilities are some examples of these. As soon as the opportunity arises, we want to further explore these options", concludes Cristens.

PROFILE

3E is a knowledge company helping organisations to create and realise projects, strategies, concepts and products involving renewable energy and energy efficiency. Its highly qualified, multi-disciplinary team consists of engineers, scientists and financial and legal experts who operate as independent consultants and work together with public and private research teams. Approximately 100 employees in Belgium, France, Turkey, China and South Africa have already realised hundreds of projects in over 20 countries.