

Case Study:

How Cordis Solutions helped steel giant ArcelorMittal streamline their global mergers and acquisitions process

“Cordis Solutions were key resources to ArcelorMittal USA in the success in using SAP Gateway for Microsoft and extremely knowledgeable and professional in their approach and assistance to our team whilst we were developing and implementing our own GWM based solution.”

Manager Corporate IT Systems, ArcelorMittal USA.

ArcelorMittal is the world’s largest steel producer, making 98.1 million tonnes of crude steel during 2014. The Fortune 500 company is headquartered in Luxembourg, but operates plants and offices across the US and Europe.

Problem



ArcelorMittal operates a relatively aggressive acquisition program, regularly buying other steel production companies and plants. Among the many challenges of merging distinct and separate organisations is finding a way to accurately assess and monitor operations across each site.

The process requires the consolidation of the financial data held by the new acquisitions. Following their most recent acquisitions, the ArcelorMittal team faced a double challenge. Their finance and IT business units were attempting to operate multiple systems running on a range of platforms spread across a number of international sites.

Not only was there a need to consolidate operations and finance data, but the existing legacy platform used for managing finances needed to be upgraded urgently or replaced entirely. Matters were further complicated by the fact that the IT team were part way through a major ERP implementation that was consuming the majority of their available resources.

The IT team realised that the legacy upgrade was too expensive and did not fit in with the long term plans of the company. Instead they invested in SAP Hana to provide the functionality needed to consolidate operations and financials into a single system. Taking this approach would allow ArcelorMittal to reduce their IT costs, and offered a chance to standardise systems and training for their global operations.

Knowing that the financials project could not wait, ArcelorMittal approached Cordis Solutions with a number of requirements. Having already invested heavily in SAP and Microsoft for their core operations, they were looking for a system that could help them ensure governance and control across every site.

ArcelorMittal also wanted a system that was user-friendly from the outset, preferably using existing office tools to help reduce training requirements and to speed uptake of the new platform. They also hoped that this approach would reduce administrative overheads for the IT team without compromising financial transparency.

Finally, the ideal solution would allow ArcelorMittal to realise even greater value from their investments in SAP and Microsoft technologies, providing a future-proof platform on which they could develop additional applications as required.

Solutions

Because of the variety of ERP and financial systems in use across the organisation, ArcelorMittal knew that they needed a middleware layer capable of extracting and transforming data for merging into their SAP ECC and Hana system at head office.

In recognition of their expertise in this area, ArcelorMittal were referred to Cordis Solutions by Microsoft for assistance. It was quickly established that the SAP Gateway for Microsoft provided exactly the sort of functionality required, connecting disparate systems to provide global insight into finances at every level.



With the help from Cordis consultants, ArcelorMittal had the SAP Gateway for Microsoft installed and configured in just two weeks. They had also built their first application capable of extracting data from a remote legacy system, “cleaning” it to meet the standards required for compliance, and then pushing it into the SAP S/4 Hana finance system at head office.

The ability to format and upload the data from various legacy systems using Microsoft Excel was vital in helping to drive adoption. The universal language of Excel meant that ArcelorMittal finance executives were able to process data, regardless of their abilities in using SAP, Oracle or any other finance platform.

The ArcelorMittal team also received extensive training in using SAP Gateway for Microsoft from Cordis, giving them the skills and tools required to build their own applications moving forward.

Outcome



In just two weeks ArcelorMittal had a platform capable of consolidating all of their finance systems, giving them the data transparency they needed to ensure accurate and timely reporting. The finance team were also much better placed to assess local performance and compliance in near real-time.

By delivering training in parallel to the SAP Gateway for Microsoft deployment, Cordis were able to bring the ArcelorMittal IT team up to speed at the same time as the project went live. Within the same two week timeframe, the development team had built their first production SAP application, and had it signed-off. The team had already begun to realise their goal of rapid deployment and future-proof extensibility.

Since the initial deployment was completed, ArcelorMittal has gone on to showcase their developments to Microsoft executives in the US. They also continue working with Cordis Solutions on other projects that will help them gain more from their SAP investments.

To learn more about SAP Gateway for Microsoft, or how to combine SAP and Microsoft for greater efficiency and data insight, please [get in touch](#)

Interested in finding out more about Cordis Solutions?

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