Unifying Financial and Project Management

Project Partners helps Colonial Pipeline Company decrease reporting times by 75 percent with Oracle's Primavera and Oracle E-Business Suite solutions.

Colonial Pipeline Company is an interstate common carrier of refined petroleum products. Each day the company delivers an average of 100 million gallons of gasoline, kerosene, home heating oil, diesel fuel, and national defense fuels to shipper terminals in 13 states and the District of Columbia. It accomplishes this by safely operating more than 5,500 miles of steel pipe, tanks, and facilities. The Colonial system connects refineries in the Gulf Coast to more than 260 marketing terminals located in the Gulf Coast, southeast, and mid-Atlantic states terminating at the New York Harbor.

In order to safely and properly manage all facets of operations, the company needed a true enterprise view of activities and the associated controls. With the help of Project Partners, an Oracle Gold Partner focused on project-driven organizations, the company implemented Oracle's Primavera and Oracle E-Business Suite applications as a complete, integrated enterprise project portfolio management solution to manage all of the project financial, scheduling, and contract management aspects of the business.

A Powerful and Scalable Option

Colonial's highest priority is safely serving its customers. To do so, the company needed a solution that would enable it to manage projects efficiently and still deliver the results its customers depend on. Completing projects within budget and schedule meant that management had to address both the accounting and the project management side of the business.

Phillip Chandler, financial controls administrator at Colonial, says managers spent a great deal of effort trying to find the best solution, because they needed to make sure it was implemented correctly to fully support various types of projects. After weighting cross-functional requirements and scoring several options, Colonial chose to implement Oracle's Primavera P6 Enterprise Project Portfolio Management, Primavera Contract Management, Business Intelligence Publisher Edition, and Primavera P6 Analytics. Along with this, it chose to implement Oracle E-Business Suite's Oracle Project Costing and Oracle Project Billing applications.

"This particular option was the best overall fit," says Chandler. "The key to choosing the Oracle solution was that it could be powerful enough to meet the needs of major projects costing more than US$100 million, and at the same time, scalable to efficiently meet the needs of projects costing in the thousands of dollars."

To integrate the Oracle E-Business Suite and Primavera applications, Colonial chose Project Partners and its integration product OP3, which has been used by enterprises for more than 15 years. Project Partners is a single-point solution provider for all requirements across Oracle E-Business Suite, Primavera, and Oracle Fusion Applications for organizations operating in a project-centric environment.

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> *–Phillip Chandler, Financial Controls Administrator, Colonial Pipeline Company*

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A Centralized, Efficient System

With the new, integrated Oracle system, Colonial will have all project-related financial records and information in one centralized repository. Project managers and the leadership team will be able to view individual projects or overall capital spend easily. With the new system, Colonial expects time spent on monthly status reporting to decrease by 75 percent, from 8,000 to 2,000 project management hours annually.

"This is a paradigm shift of work for our project managers from doing data manipulation to actually being a project manager," says Chandler. "This allows them to support our customers both internally and externally in a more effective manner."

Chandler says Project Partners has helped Colonial implement best practices into its processes, making the company more efficient. "The Project Partners team is sensitive to the specific needs of Colonial. At the same time, they are able to present solutions from an outside perspective that we also need to grow as a business," says Chandler. "Project Partners has provided the expertise and professionalism that we needed for developing and implementing our project."