



Netpeople and Horus Finance run together a fast driven SAP implementation

When financial holding company Horus Finance decided to change its legacy enterprise system for a modern day ERP, the company's IT and Finance Directors were challenged to identify a solution that would fit a midsize company with the needs of a globalised corporation. Netpeople offered just the right solution, using SAP ECC 6.0.

Based in the Paris metropolitan area, Horus Finance was created in 1983 as a financial holding company, investing in industrial and service oriented companies operating in areas such as artwork transport and logistics, real estate, or financial services. «We invest in niche markets, identifying companies that run into management difficulties, explains Arnaud Baret, Chief Financial Officer. We offer the appropriate management skills to put the business back on the right track. We then help the company to grow healthily». Horus Finance currently holds shares in 21 companies in Europe, Asia and North America, employing a total of 1 200 employees and generating an annual revenue of 100 million euros.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

In 1999, Horus Finance decided to implement a shared ERP system across all its companies, to streamline financial management and reporting procedures. Specific open source developments were also implemented to address some companies' particular business requirements. The legacy system was first implemented in two of the group's companies and later extended to the 19 others. In 2009, however, the system required an upgrade of the software that was both expensive and time-consuming. Moreover, the system had grown rather complex over time. Finally, when a subsidiary was sold by Horus, it was difficult to extract it out of the IT system of the group. «After weighing our options, we decided it was time to move on to something that would be more efficient, easier to manage and less costly to maintain, underscores Laurent

Morisot, Horus Finance's IT Director. After taking a close look at the different ERP solutions on the market, we eventually selected SAP ECC 6.0». Horus Finance also turned to Netpeople to handle the implementation project. «Netpeople understood our situation and goals very well, adds Laurent Morisot. As a company, they have the perfect scale to match our own. Also, they have an excellent working relationship with the people at SAP. They were the perfect partner to support us with this major challenge for us».

A FAST TRACK IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing SAP at Horus Finance was conducted at record pace. The project started in late September 2010, with the aim to be up and running by Jan 1, 2011, within the 19 companies which would use the new system. The project team consisted of two Netpeople consultants, as



120

Users, 19 companies,
5 countries



3.5 months

Implementation
time

well as Horus Finance's CIO and CFO. Experts at Netpeople were also involved for some specific aspects of the implementation project. «We started by implementing SAP ECC 6.0's FI, CO, TR, SD, MM and partially HR modules in 19 of our companies, using standard SAP workflows, says

*«Netpeople provided a solution that is efficient, easy to manage and cost effective.
The implementation was delivered in record time»*

Laurent Morisot, IT director | Horus Finance

Arnaud Baret. All this was carried out within our expected time frame. We later rolled out specific implementations for two of our participations early 2012, that required particular project management and inventory management features». The system is now internally hosted, using five servers located at the Group's head office in France, with an architecture based on hardware redundancy to ensure maximum security and availability. «Our previous ERP was hosted by the system's vendor in the USA, underscores Laurent Morisot. SAP's easier system administration and maintenance, along with its lower bandwidth usage, made it possible to consider hosting the new system ourselves. This makes a lot of sense, for both practical and cost related reasons». With Netpeople's support, Horus Finance also implemented a new business intelligence solution using SAP Business Information Warehouse (BW).

STATE OF THE ART

Today, Horus Finance's legacy ERP system has been fully replaced by a state of the art solution, using SAP's latest software. The system is efficient, easy to manage and cost effective, with annual operating costs that have dropped from close to € 240 000 down to €80 000, mostly due to easier maintenance and internal hosting. The reporting procedure is considerably faster, allowing for optimised monthly closing procedures. Moreover, the overall ease of use is fully in line with what the company expects. «We have 120 users on the system in several countries across the globe, explains Arnaud Baret. We needed an ERP with a smooth learning curve that would allow everyone to easily come to terms with the new system and user interface. Overall, we can say that we have changed ERPs but haven't changed our work habits».

Horus Finance's management is also fully satisfied with the way the project was conducted. «We are a middle size company, with the same requirements and overheads as a large international group, stresses Laurent Morisot. We therefore need an ERP that is able to deal with different currencies, as well as varied accounting rules and regulations, while remaining easy enough to cope with on a day to day basis with limited management resources. We are very happy that Netpeople were able to offer just the right solution, committing dedicated resources to allow for a fast delivery and an effective support. We now have a platform that is fully tailored to our needs and that will grow with our business over time».

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PROJECT DATA



Client: Horus Finance

Industry: financial holding company (21 participations), logistics, real estate, financial services, manufacturing.

Countries: FR, CA, IN, DE, BE

Web site:
www.horus-finance.com

Assignment: replacement of a legacy ERP system

Consultant: Netpeople

Solution: SAP ECC 6.0 + BW

Implementation: 3.5 months

Users: 120

Benefits: easy to use, easy to manage, faster closing procedures, internally hosted, cost effective



www.netpeople.fr