



Business Intelligence Solutions Streamlining Reporting Requirements.

A leading medical company operating throughout Europe, North America and Asia.



Since the spring of 2003, our customer has used the Essbase add-in for a portion of their reporting needs. They found with the number of reports necessary, the work had become too labor intensive to support raw spreadsheet reporting. The amount of time spent to complete reports each and every month, especially for senior executives, was getting out of hand. The potential for human error and the effort needed to analyze and correct errors was huge. An approach had to be found to solve this problem. Something that would increase productivity and decrease the likelihood of errors. Support reduction from IT and Administration would be a huge bonus.

Therefore, our customer decided to launch a project to evaluate all of their current reports and determine the most cost effective and best solution available to assist in decreasing the total amount of reports. In addition, our customer wanted to simplify the process of generating these reports.

THE DECISION

The Customer wanted to reduce the amount of effort in creating and maintaining reports within their department. An easy-to-use reporting system was needed that could be rapidly deployed, without weeks of training and massive support.

While Hyperion met many of the reporting needs, it was determined to analyze other options available with the ultimate goal of implementing a reporting systems solution to improve their overall process. The customer wanted a solution giving them the ability to access the data when they wanted it and create the reports needed while keeping the integrity of the data and reducing the support needed from IT.

Specifically, this department required a solution that met key business challenges. This new reporting solution must:

- Decrease daily and monthly support from IT staff.
- Provide the ability to access reports and data without assistance from IT.
- Provide Analyst with the ability to do multiple retrieves on same report.
- Combine forecasting and planning into one source.
- Support complex algorithms which mandate significant calculation processes
- With all of the above, the architecture must provide for fast data input response and reasonable database calculation and consolidation times.

THE HCG SOLUTION

HCG **LISTENED** to our customer as they defined their needs. The result? HCG **COLLABORATED** with our

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|--------------------|---|
| APPLICATION | Essbase Financial Reporting |
| BENEFIT | Reduced burden on IT staff; Accurate reporting, streamlined processes, significant improvements and cost savings to departmental reporting. |
| SOFTWARE | Hyperion Essbase, Microsoft Excel and HCG Custom Software |

customer to design a **Custom Framework** that manages all aspects of forecasting and management reporting.

This solution allows managers and the finance team to access data from a single source— while keeping all information on one page. The solution allows for collaborative forecasting and reporting with write-back capabilities, while still maintaining a simple, yet secure interface. It was also easy to distribute to users with minimal training.

- The Forecast Input allows controlled direct entry of forecast data to the Forecast Cube.
- Actual information is obtained from two different operational

systems that are used to provide “midcourse corrections” to the forecast projections.

- The Forecast Cube is tuned for fast response of the calculations required by the Forecast Input facility. Thus keeping entry response fast.
- The Calculation Cube is tuned for the complex timing requirements and creates all projections of counts and dollars within this timing environment. Scripts are tuned to keep calculation times to a minimum.

THE RESULTS

HCG was able to **SOLVE** a problem for our customer closing the loop on the

forecasting process in time for them to meet the budgeting deadlines.

End-users were up and running without additional technology training, and the application is now easily maintained by the finance team.

The custom application streamlined the forecast process requirements from several operational systems, data sources and support staff, down to one system, one source for data and one support person.

The customer now has numbers that are clear, accurate and delivered on time. The precision and accuracy of the system has virtually

eliminated costly mistakes in data misinterpretation.

The application has also opened up the communication between technology and finance. Users are able to pull up exact information about enrollments, or profits, and see how numbers compare with projections, and adjust accordingly.

Every level of the forecast process has been impacted. Analysts now have more time to produce analytical reports and build scenarios, and can give their organization a better handle on controlling costs and identifying issues

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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