

financial reporting with SAP SEM-BCS 6.0 and BW 7.0

Continental AG

With 135,000 employees and sales of over € 20.1 billion, Continental is a global, innovative partner of the automotive industry.

The consistent focus on customers and stakeholders made it imperative to optimize internal processes. A major step in this direction was the introduction of the SAP Strategic Enterprise Management (SAP SEM) tool. In this project, Siemens IT Solutions and Services* successfully managed the Financial Reporting (FIRE) project for Corporate Controlling to the go-live, and supported Continental in upgrading the application to meet new requirements and implement modifications.

The project

Hanover-based Continental AG comprises over 300 fully consolidated companies and is split into six business segments: Chassis&Safety, Powertrain, Interior, Passenger and Light Truck Tires, Commercial Vehicle Tires, and ContiTech. The aim of the FIRE project was to unify legal and management consolidation in a single integrated system. The first step was to replace the previously separate accounting and reporting systems with a single integrated one, SAP Strategic Enterprise Management (SEM-BCS). In the follow-up project FIRE 2, Siemens adapted the system to meet future requirements, which comprised converting the financial reporting software (previously



based on the SAP consolidation software) from R/3-based (EC-CS) to BW-based consolidation (BCS). The key requirements were:

- ▶ Integrated internal and external accounting
- ▶ A uniform, globally available Financial Data Warehouse
- ▶ Creation of a sound financial reporting tool
- ▶ Facilities for uniform reporting in line with IFRS and US GAAP
- ▶ More efficient financial processes

Business challenges

- ▶ Uniting internal and external accounting
- ▶ Consolidating in line with the legal structure and management hierarchy (matrix consolidation)
- ▶ Global training rollout
- ▶ Mapping of both internal and external group reporting requirements
- ▶ Evaluation of reports in group currency and local company currency
- ▶ Structuring of reports by purpose (monthly account, annual financial statement, planning)

*) As of July 1st 2011, Siemens IT Solutions and Services is an Atos business

Why Atos ?

The benefits for Continental AG

- ▶ Integration and standardization of reporting and financial statements
- ▶ Uniform, globally available Financial Data Warehouse
- ▶ Greater stability and operational security
- ▶ Mapping of IFRS international reporting standards
- ▶ Value management (EBIT / ROCE) at operational levels
- ▶ Flexibility for acquisitions and organizational changes
- ▶ More efficient processes and shorter lead times

The benefits for employees

- ▶ Fewer routine tasks, e.g. for data validation and intercompany clearing
- ▶ Uniform, clear user interface for the reporting process
- ▶ Wider area of responsibility due to local-level processes (e.g. currency translation) and data analysis

Solutions

The job of consolidation software is helping to compile the consolidated financial statement. From data transfer to individual closings, currency translations and interunit eliminations, right through the consolidation of investments and reporting, the whole process is accelerated and largely automated. The SAP SEM-BCS solution creates an ideal information basis for supporting the business strategy and optimizing operational enterprise management.

Strengths of the consolidation environment

- ▶ Data entry, consolidation (actual, forecast, budget), and reporting in a single system
- ▶ Utilization of the consolidation system for additional report requests (IT cost controlling, etc.)
- ▶ Rapid availability of the data thanks to short consolidation runs
- ▶ Uniform data base for internal and external accounting
- ▶ One posting is effective for legal and management consolidation
- ▶ Clear process control and supervision via BCS monitors
- ▶ Greater responsibility for the local companies, particularly with regard to validation, currency translation, and ICO reconciliation
- ▶ Standard software

Our services

- ▶ As-is assessment and redesign of the consolidation process
- ▶ Business blueprint
- ▶ Creation of data model
- ▶ Customizing
- ▶ Data extraction and data entry
- ▶ Integration testing
- ▶ Reporting
- ▶ International user training
- ▶ Organization and management consulting
- ▶ Documentation for users and system administrators

Technical basis

SAP-SEM BCS 6.0 and BW 7.0 are stand-alone solutions running on Windows or UNIX platforms that can be set up independently of R/3 transaction systems with the database system of your choice.



“The Financial Reporting project was a key factor in optimizing our consolidation process. Siemens fully lived up to our expectations. The professionalism of their consulting and work reinforced our belief that we are on the right track for the future with our partner.”

Bernhard Krönke, Head of Financial Reporting Systems, Continental AG

For more information:
Please contact tam@atos.net

