



Flakeboard Company Limited

Microsoft Dynamics AX 3.0 Implementation

Identifying the Need

Founded in 1960 in Ontario, Canada, Flakeboard has become the largest composite wood producer in North America. Capitalizing on lumber industry by-products and under-utilized wood species once destined for landfills or burned as waste, Flakeboard manufactures a variety of particleboard and medium density fiberboard (MDF).

In 2006, Flakeboard acquired three MDF plants and three particleboard plants from Weyerhaeuser, and, in the process, nearly quadrupled their previous production capability by adding 1.1 billion square feet of manufacturing capacity. Such rapid growth created several challenges within Flakeboard’s existing systems and processes.

First, the Canadian mill’s financials were managed individually through an outdated ERP system that was not scalable, and they also lacked the requisite staff and technology necessary to handle the financial management for the six U.S. mills.

Second, Flakeboard had only six weeks before their first month-end closing, and were faced with quickly finding an alternative financial management solution to avoid the high costs of retaining Weyerhaeuser’s transition services to implement and support SAP R/3. Given the circumstances, Flakeboard was nearly resigned to engage Weyerhaeuser to supply the necessary business process outsourcing, but then decided to contact Strategic Solutions NW.

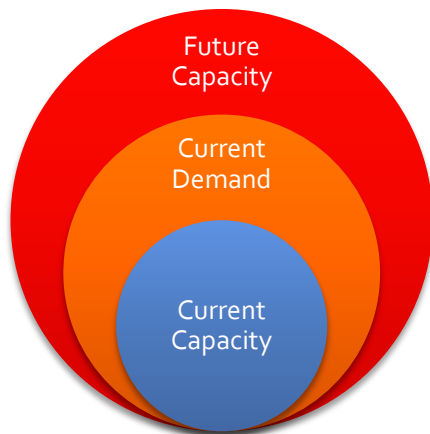
Analysis and Strategy

As a result, Flakeboard chose to implement Microsoft’s Dynamics AX for their scalable accounting system, and also decided that Strategic Solutions NW was the best firm to implement the new system due to our broad system and industry expertise.

Strategic Solutions NW then successfully deployed a new accounting center to handle the majority of the financial functions necessitated by Flakeboard’s newly acquired entity, and did so within the six-week deadline. The process included converting Weyerhaeuser’s financial operations to a new system, hiring staff, creating policies and procedures, and managing day-to-day financial operations.

MICROSOFT SPECIFICATIONS

- ▲ Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- ▲ Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- ▲ Microsoft Dynamics AX 3.0



Process Improvement and AX Implementation

The endeavor included hosting the software with Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Enterprise Edition, and developing an interface that enabled the new Dynamics AX system to integrate with Flakeboard’s custom order management system and Maximo-purchasing and inventory management software. Strategic Solutions NW also configured the new system to provide financial information through a business portal in order for mill management to easily perform inquiry functions essential to business operations.

Despite the tight deadline, new systems and processes were implemented seamlessly. Additionally, Flakeboard was able to save approximately five million dollars by transitioning to Microsoft Dynamics AX instead of engaging Weyerhaeuser to provide SAP R/3 services, a total that does not take into account the savings Flakeboard realized by eliminating the need for an internal IT staff. Indicative of the project’s success was Flakeboard’s desire to retain Strategic Solutions NW’s services for a period of over twenty months.

Strategic Solutions NW’s work with Flakeboard was also singled out by a Microsoft case study in software and consulting excellence.

About Strategic Solutions NW

Strategic Solutions NW is a technology and management consultancy with many years of experience exploring and applying technology solutions to improve business functionality.

We harness our decades of combined consulting experience, much of it acquired in global firms such as Accenture, to provide our clients with comprehensive solutions to streamline and enhance operations. We pride ourselves on establishing strong relationships with each of our clients, working closely with them to identify inefficiencies, and guiding them through the transition to an ideal future state and beyond.

The combination of our team’s experience and focus enables us to solve significant problems for our clientele while delivering compelling solutions through the power of teamwork and genuine collaboration. Our solutions are as diverse as our clients, and range in scope from full cycle system implementations to the creation and operation of accounting centers for half billion dollar businesses.

We encourage you to browse our site, and invite you to contact us to discuss how we may help your business realize its full potential.

