



Roll-Gom

Recycling Company Revamps Management System to Meet Needs of Expanding Business

The Situation

Founded in 1985, France-based Roll-Gom has made its name using rubber powder from old, crushed automobile tires. Randolph Ledreux, IT Director at Roll-Gom, says: "Our factory operates night and day, running a production line that uses rubber powder to manufacture wheels for waste bins and wheelbarrows."

Roll-Gom was recently acquired by Alsace-Canadian GUITEL Group, a supplier of rubber powder and a world leader in manufacturing rubber matting and dairy flooring. This new ownership gave Roll-Gom the freedom to make its own IT decisions and further support its expanding production.

Because of significant changes to its business structure, however, Roll-Gom had to reshape its management system. The priority was to find a solution for its accounts systems, which were supported by an SAP enterprise resource planning solution controlled by its former parent company. Roll-Gom had just two months from the takeover to implement the replacement solution.

Roll-Gom employees lacked confidence in the SAP system because it was difficult to use, especially for those without training. For this reason, the company decided SAP was unsuitable for its IT system. "There was an overall reluctance with regard to SAP," Ledreux says. "We did not have proper control over the settings, which were poorly configured. To print a report or delivery note, three or four ratifications were necessary."

Roll-Gom wanted to regain control of its management system and win over users, who had grown increasingly frustrated by the existing system's outdated functionality. Before the SAP system could be shut down, however, Roll-Gom had to quickly deploy a new solution. The company also needed a solution that would meet a tight budget and give users full control over functionality to create more accurate reports.

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- Randolph Ledreux, IT Director, Roll-Gom

The Solution

Microsoft® Certified Partner C2A worked with Roll-Gom employees to identify a solution that would generate user confidence. "For us, employee cooperation was essential to make a fresh start with a new information system," Ledreux says.

In August 2004, after researching a number of products on the market, the Roll Gom accounts department decided to deploy Microsoft Dynamics™ NAV. The Financial Accounting module was the first part of the solution to be deployed. The successful implementation before the withdrawal of SAP prevented any disruption to company cash flow. By February 2005, Microsoft Dynamics NAV was fully managing factory production at Roll-Gom.

“C2A took just 60 days to configure the system, and because it was easy to develop, members of our own IT team could take on some responsibility for the interfaces and all the editing,” Ledreux says.

Employee input into the development of the solution ensured Microsoft Dynamics NAV mirrored previous business processes. As a result, employees adapted quickly to the easy to use solution.

Because Microsoft Dynamics NAV is designed to address broad industry needs, it fits most of the company’s requirements out-of-the-box. The modules in use include Financial Accounting, Stock, and Production Management. Roll-Gom has customized Microsoft Dynamics NAV to match its operations while adding new business-critical functionality. With the Financial Accounting module, Roll-Gom can identify new financial opportunities and motivate users to be more productive. Up-to-date finance information is readily accessible and makes it easier for Roll-Gom to spot trends and gain insight into business activities.

The Benefits

Roll-Gom employees can now access real-time stock information and manage a wide range of other business processes—important features for a company that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The company can also add functionality as needed and grow at its own pace.

Enhanced Visibility Contributes to More Accurate Business Decisions

Because the new system relies on a centralized Microsoft SQL Server™ 2000 database, managers always have access to current and correct information, which improves data visibility and decision-making across the entire company. This, in turn, has increased user cooperation and instilled confidence in the system.

“The centralized database provides up-to-the-minute operational data for all authorized employees,” Ledreux says. “It is possible to navigate through critical data and view every report and payment. As a result, we can get a clear view of our business activities and make the best possible management decisions.”

Off-the-Shelf Solution Meets 90 Per Cent of Company’s Business Requirements

Roll-Gom has cut development costs substantially because of the system’s minimal need for customization. Off the shelf, Microsoft Dynamics NAV already met 90 per cent of the company’s needs.

The system’s easy manageability also drives down costs. Time spent configuring reports and seeking new opportunities has been reduced, so the business can now focus on increasing production capacity.

In the future, Roll-Gom will gradually implement more modules to create an integrated IT system in accordance with its budget.

The Conclusion

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Users Quickly Adopt Easy-to-Use System, which Mirrors Existing Processes

...because the new system mirrored existing processes, it was easy for Roll-Gom users to adopt. Ledreux says: “The move to Microsoft Dynamics NAV has been a good experience because its user-friendliness ensures we can get the most value from the solution. Our user needs were configured into the system’s functionality. Now, all authorized employees have clear visibility of processes across the company.”

Scalability of System Fits Well into Company’s Plans for Future Growth

The next step for Roll-Gom is to integrate Microsoft Dynamics NAV with Microsoft Office Outlook® 2003 for sales employees. “With this integration, our sales employees can easily retrieve the latest orders in Outlook 2003,” Ledreux says. “We have been using Microsoft Dynamics NAV for 18 months. Using this new solution, we can save time on administration processes.

“We are now looking to fit all workers with bar-code scanners that will help them enter information in Microsoft Dynamics NAV more efficiently, freeing up time for other work. We are also looking to add some extra functions to the sales model that will help us to improve our customer services. We hope to complete both these projects in 2006.”