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Oracle 9iAS Case Study

MFG Systems' Sample Management System Delivers Quality and Savings to DuPont

Challenge

DuPont's next generation of leading crop protection products begin as chemical compound samples used for controlled experiments and testing. Managing the inventory of these samples had become quite complex and relied on three separate systems and outdated technology.

Inadequate sample management and forecasting systems restricted DuPont's ability to control the distribution of these finite resources, and the process of recreating depleted samples was expensive. The Global Technology Group within DuPont Crop Protection envisioned a centralized sample management system that would manage authorization levels, forecasting, inventory management, and distribution all the way through to a signed shipping receipt.

Solution

DuPont's Global Technology Group selected MFG Systems to develop the Sample Management System (SMS) over many other bidders, including several large, international companies. The group was impressed by MFG's leadership with Oracle technology. MFG stood out as being highly capable of delivering a quality solution in the four-month window necessary to be operational for the critical spring season. MFG proposed an Oracle Portal solution and presented several prototype screens to demonstrate their expertise with the product.

DuPont's sample management system uses Oracle's virtual private database, which offers users secure global access and customized views based on the type of user. SMS integrates with wireless barcode technology and shipping software that easily tracks UPS and FedEx delivery status. MFG's iterative development process ensured that the DuPont had input at each stage and could evolve their business process from concept to reality. The MFG team excelled at interpreting and translating DuPont's business needs and calmly resolved any issues that arose.

Outcome

DuPont's SMS allows the company to control inventory and consolidate systems, yielding a high-quality, streamlined process with clear financial benefits. Greater efficiency and savings will extend throughout the company as fewer people are required for developing samples, managing samples, maintaining multiple and outdated systems and facilitating the overall process.

DuPont was pleased with MFG's ability to deliver as promised and has expanded MFG's role to include further integration of SMS with other DuPont systems and outsourced database administration for SMS through MFG's dbGuardian™ and AppsGuardian services.

“The MFG team was able to help us better understand our needs and vision for this sample management solution. They proved their expertise and good nature by handling unexpected challenges with ease.”

— Sheldon Sumpter, Six Sigma Blackbelt
Project Manager, DuPont Crop Protection