

Case Study



Industry	Technology	Service	Geography
Process Manufacturing	.NET	Custom Development	North America

The Company

Headquartered in Tennessee, USA, this company is the largest resin manufacturer in North America. It is also a leading global supplier of gel coats, colorants and additives for composites and cast polymers.

The company's manufacturing units are located in Canada, United States, Mexico, Europe, and Asia and its manufacturing facilities are ISO 9001:2000 certified. It registered annual sales of over \$500 million and has an employee strength of 525.

Business Challenges

Each manufacturing unit of the company followed disparate processes. The lack of significant corporate-wide common applications affected its functioning and final output. The company decided to introduce a common manufacturing management system to bring about uniformity across its various units as well as carry out the following functions:

- Enhance product quality
- Reduce manufacturing costs
- Improve delivery performance
- Streamline the flow of process and product information
- Improve co-ordination between the management and personnel

The company partnered with Sierra Atlantic to build this solution because of our in-depth understanding in Oracle Process Manufacturing and our proven track record in .Net custom development.

Sierra Atlantic's Solution

Sierra Atlantic designed, and rolled out a custom development solution code named 'Hydra' based on the .NET framework. The primary challenge involved the establishment of multiple interfaces with the client's existing systems such as Oracle E-Business Suite, AS 400-based order entry system, Intermec pocket personal computer & scanner, labeling software, logistics report, process control systems (Delta V, PI), ASD's Statistical Process Control (SPC) charting tool, and a customer portal hosted on the client's extranet.

Our technical team developed the application using C# as the programming language for the User Interface (UI) & business layers, and PL/SQL for the Oracle database layer. The team developed the other critical sections of the application on Pocket PC to enable shop floor operators to capture data as close as possible to the source. Our team also planned for redundancy at all levels of the architecture to ensure that 'Hydra' was available 24 x 7 to the shop floor operators.

Sierra Atlantic built the application using over 285,000 lines of code and with 22 person years of effort, 260 independent user navigable screens, and over 60 reports.

We also developed an interactive HTML prototype and several other process documents like Software Specification Document (SSD), Use Cases, Detail Design Document etc., to validate the end users' requirements.

We built Hydra using the following tools:

- Visual Studio with the .NET 1.1 framework and Crystal Reports Oracle Applications 11i
- Active Directory Server, Authorization Manager, Microsoft Visual SourceSafe, Dundas charting software, ASD's - Statistical Process Control charting tool (SPC) and NAnt
- DevPartner, NUnit, Quick Test Professional and Load Runner

Business Benefits

Sierra Atlantic deployed 'Hydra' at all of the six manufacturing units identified by the client before the project began. Hydra's go-live and rollout in the plants has helped the customer achieve their quality goals for excellence along with the following additional benefits:

- Standardized business process across all manufacturing units
- Increased the company's process efficiency
- Enhanced co-ordination between company management and personnel, allowed for predictable delivery and performance
- Shortened time- to-market, streamlined flow of process and product information

About Sierra Atlantic

Sierra Atlantic is a leader in offshoring enterprise applications, helping our customers optimize their investments in enterprise business applications - ERP, CRM, and SCM - from leading vendors such as Agile, Oracle, PeopleSoft (now Oracle), SAP and Siebel (now Oracle). With expertise derived from deep R&D relationships with enterprise software leaders, we offer complete lifecycle e-business application management solutions -- development, implementation, integration, upgrade, and support -- using our NShore™ methodology. We integrate these point solutions into Application Networks® that enable seamless business processes within and outside the enterprise. With over 750 highly satisfied customers since 1993, Sierra Atlantic headquartered in Silicon Valley has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Toronto, Boston, London, Paris, Switzerland, Dubai, India, Malaysia, and Singapore. For more information, please visit www.SierraAtlantic.com