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I realized Capgemini was a great fit for helping us come up to speed with our first Duet Enterprise project.”

Tom Doyle
VP of IT,
GT Advanced Technologies

Getting more from SAP using ERP+ with Duet Enterprise

GT Advanced Technologies partners with Capgemini to integrate SAP with Microsoft Outlook and SharePoint for better management of purchase orders

The Situation

GT Advanced Technologies (formerly GT Solar) is a global supplier of polysilicon production equipment and crystalline growth systems and material for a variety of industries, including the solar and LED markets. The company’s products and services help to enable sustainable energy practices, as they are used by the solar energy and LED industries.

Like any large manufacturing operation, GT Advanced Technologies needs to buy large amounts of raw materials. Every day, it handles an average of over 300 purchase orders (POs), each of which requires immediate attention. However, its PO approval process used to be cumbersome and varied from one part of the organization to another. All in all, PO approvals were taking up too much of managers’ time.

The company was keen to simplify and standardize the PO approval process. It also wanted to be able to get a detailed view of every PO as well as related intelligence, including information about where it stood in the queue, related stock details, and history.



At the same time, GT Advanced Technologies recognized this need as an opportunity to make its SAP® solution more accessible for occasional users. The SAP solution had been in place for many years, but had seen very limited use by managers.

The Solution

Tom Doyle, the company's vice president of information technology, knew that it was unrealistic to suggest managers should just start using SAP for their PO activities. "Our managers were not going to be effective in navigating native SAP screens when they only use them a few times a month." The managers were, however, comfortable with Microsoft Outlook and SharePoint, so these looked like obvious candidates to provide the front end.

Via its SAP support center, Capgemini was a long-standing provider of outsourced SAP support to GT Advanced Technologies, and so the company turned to Capgemini's ERP+ team for help. This dedicated group provides the full range of skills and expertise necessary to integrate SAP and Microsoft solutions. Doyle says, "When our Capgemini account manager told me about the ERP+ team, I realized it was a great fit for our objective of linking SAP with Microsoft technologies."

Collaborating closely with the client's IT team, Capgemini's ERP+ specialists designed, developed, and delivered a PO approval portal, based on SharePoint and ERP+ with Duet Enterprise. Duet Enterprise acts as a fully integrated bridge between SAP and Microsoft technologies.

POs in SAP are now synced with Microsoft SharePoint, effectively in real time. End users can now easily create, view, and approve or reject POs via a familiar Microsoft interface.

The Result

As intended, GT Advanced Technologies now has a highly streamlined PO processing approach, and is also getting more use out of its SAP solution.

When a PO is presented for approval, the PO detail and contextual information appear together on a single screen, facilitating quick and accurate decision making. Besides providing senior managers with a dashboard displaying real-time PO data, the solution also offers bulk approve and reject operations.

SharePoint's InfoPath forms pull in data directly from SAP so that, by using the portal, managers are interacting with SAP processes without the need to deal with native SAP screens. That means SAP will be used more and GT will get more from its investment.

Doyle says, "Our executive teams and mobile users now have the ability to review and approve purchase orders from outside of the SAP environment, and from their mobile devices while travelling. This has greatly improved the purchase order approval process."

How GT Advanced Technologies and Capgemini Work Together

During the project, Capgemini's ERP+ team transferred knowledge of SAP/ Microsoft integration to the in-house team. That leaves GT Advanced Technologies well placed to enhance its SAP solution further in future.

"The ERP+ team helped us make sense of a potentially complex integration problem," Doyle comments. "Thanks to them, we now understand the Duet Enterprise approach, and can both support the PO solution, and start to apply the same integration techniques to other parts of our SAP solution. That's something that our business users are going to appreciate greatly."

About Capgemini

With 120,000 people in 40 countries, Capgemini is one of the world's foremost providers of consulting, technology and outsourcing services.

The Group reported 2011 global revenues of EUR 9.7 billion. Together with its clients, Capgemini creates and delivers business and technology solutions that fit their needs and drive the results they want. A deeply multicultural organization, Capgemini has developed its own way of working, the Collaborative Business Experience™, and draws on Rightshore®, its worldwide delivery model.

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In collaboration with



GT Advanced Technologies a leading global provider of polysilicon production technology, and sapphire and silicon crystalline growth systems and materials for the solar, LED and other specialty markets. The company's equipment and services support the growth of the Solar and LED industries and accelerate the adoption of renewable energy for a more sustainable world.

GT Advanced Technologies leverages its core crystalline growth and materials expertise in polysilicon, photovoltaic and sapphire to deliver sustained value to our customers. Innovative ideas and industry experience enable the evolution and commercialization of products that elevate performance, improve quality and lower manufacturing costs.

More information is available at:
www.gtat.com

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