



Reporting with SAP data

EVAG modernizes management reporting with Cubeware

Essener Verkehrs AG (EVAG), one of the largest local transport authorities in Germany's Western Ruhr region, provides services for over 330,000 passengers each day. Over 1,800 employees provide customer-friendly and economical mobility services that keep the city of Essen moving.

Growing need for analytical application

EVAG manages its operative business processes using SAP R/3. Since the company's controllers could not effectively monitor and analyze these processes using the transactional platform alone, they implemented an OLAP solution which combined a TM1 database and Microsoft Excel. Once this solution could no longer meet their growing needs, the company decided to deploy a new business intelligence platform that could manage their ever increasing data volumes and generate highly informative reports.

One platform for all planning and reporting processes

BI strategy for controlling department

The controlling department at EVAG serves as a BI competence center which is responsible for all aspects of business intelligence in the company. In order to achieve its goal of building a single platform for management reporting, the department searched for a solution that could visualize different types of information from various departments in a common format.

Unbeatable performance and price

In comparison to other potential solutions, the combination of Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions, Cubeware Cockpit V6pro and a Microsoft SQL Server database delivered the best price-performance ratio. In addition, Microsoft SQL Server and Cubeware's standardized interface for SAP easily solved its problems with data harmonization, a key factor for successfully implementing a centralized reporting system.

Automatic data processing

By using Microsoft SQL Server's Integration Services with Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions, the controllers at EVAG can now directly transfer the data from SAP CO. Since this ETL tool transfers actual SAP R/3 data as well as accounts, cost centers, orders and other structures into a Microsoft SQL Server data mart, EVAG can keep its SAP data consistent while minimizing for the need for manual work or maintenance. Although the ETL process is scheduled to run automatically, users can also start the process manually if necessary. During the import process the system optimizes data through selections and calculations for the analysis process.

Solution

EVAG has implemented a centralized reporting system for many different departments. Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions directly transfers and processes the data from SAP R/3 for OLAP analysis. Using Cubeware Cockpit V6pro, the controllers can flexibly analyze a common pool of information and create more informative management reports.

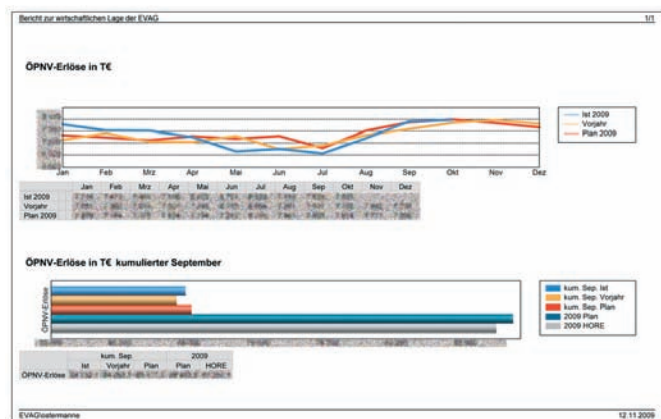
Technology

- SAP CO and other data sources
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions
- Cubeware Cockpit V6pro



"By importing our data into Microsoft SQL Server, we have created a common pool of data which we can flexibly analyze and visualize using Cubeware Cockpit."

Michael Feller, Director of Controlling at EVAG



Plan-actual comparison of mass-transit revenues broken down by year and month

Excellent connections for budget, forecast and actual data

The controllers at EVAG modeled the information in their Microsoft SQL Server data mart using a single OLAP cube which contains both actual and budget data. This system integrates data actual data from SAP CO as well as budget data from the company's planning software, 4Plan from Software4u . As a result, the integrated reporting system can display actual, budget and forecast data in a common structure and categorize all numbers as either cost or profit centers using the appropriate cost type. The controllers can then easily access and analyze this information from the Cubeware Cockpit V6pro front end.

Scalable system based on a common pool of data

One of the greatest benefits of this project has been the centralized data storage. As a result, the controlling department can integrate and display many different data sources in a single solution. Thanks to Cubeware Cockpit, the controllers can quickly evaluate the existing information and present it in a common format. Best of all, they can access this same information from a standard Web browser regardless if they are inside or outside the office. As a result, the project team was able to quickly gain user buy-in for the new system.

Although the initial implementation was outsourced to external consultants, the controlling department today manages and administers the entire system internally. Thanks to Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions, business users can even connect additional SAP modules without needing assistance.

Enterprise roll-out

The controlling department's goal is to create a unified, highly efficient reporting process and modernize its management reports. In the next phases of the project, the controlling department plans to connect new data sources, build additional cubes, bring its reports up to the latest standards as well as optimize the way it visualizes numbers.

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