



Encore Business Solutions Encore Business Solutions Encore Business Solutions

Customer Profile

Explorer Pipeline Company owns and operates a 1,400 mile products pipeline system transporting primarily gasoline, fuel oil and jet fuel from Gulf Coast refineries and import facilities in Texas and Louisiana into the mid-western United States. They currently transport refined products with over 72 different product specifications for over 60 different shippers in a single line of pipe. Additionally, Explorer Pipeline supplies to several metropolitan markets such as Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, St. Louis, and Chicago. Explorer Pipeline is a joint venture between eight major oil companies and is based in Tulsa, OK. They serve more than 16 states and can ultimately deliver 677,000 barrels of product in a single day.

Business Solutions

- Microsoft Dynamics™ GP
- Project Tracking

Benefits

- Managed project performance against budgets
- Maintained tight control over project activities
 - Ease of use across all departments
 - Improved decision making

Project Tracking

Customer Success Story Explorer Pipeline Company

Situation/Solution

Concerned with managing their multi-million dollar projects, Explorer Pipeline was ready to move from a home grown solution to a simple, yet effective project tracking solution. Project engineers needed to track their own budgets so it was critical they had a system they could easily learn, use and pull information from. They evaluated several systems but found many had complexity they did not need and feared this complexity would affect the effectiveness of the solution within their organization. According to Bob Dudley of Explorer Pipeline “other systems were just overkill.” Realizing the simplicity of Project Tracking, Explorer Pipeline implemented it in early 1998, and have since benefited from its reporting and cost tracking capabilities.

Benefits

Projects at Explorer Pipeline run at a very fast pace, therefore easily tracking invoices and costs is extremely vital for the company. Project Tracking has proven to have significantly benefited both the Controller and the Project Engineers. During their multi-million dollar projects they receive invoices from many different locations. These invoices get consolidated in Payables Management and distributed to projects allowing the controller to know at any time, the status of each project. With Project Tracking they are able to keep close track of all expenses.

It is essential for Product Engineers to know the status of their projects in order to stay within budget. The ease of inputting data has ensured that the system is always current. The ease with which they can view information enables them to more accurately verify the



budget of their projects. According to Dudley “our Product Engineers can now manage their projects better because we have data at our fingertips.”

Explorer Pipeline depends on the reporting abilities of Project Tracking. Custom reports are generated for the Project Engineers, allowing them to make efficient and appropriate business decisions regarding their projects and budgets. Additional reports allow them to view the status of their entire project, making it easy for them to see which project should be closed. They print their variance reports seven different ways so they can look at expenditures from many different angles. Some of their

“Our projects are multi-million dollar projects with invoices coming from many different sources; it’s pertinent we know our costs at all times.”

—Bob Dudley, Explorer Pipeline Company





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favorite reports are the breakdown reports which they say they “run the daylights out of.”

Since the implementation of Project Tracking from Encore, Explorer Pipeline has gained greater control of their projects. The ability to easily access valuable company information from their system has enabled them to make better business decisions on a daily basis. Their project budgets are more easily managed and monitored as a result of this timely information. Additionally, the reporting options of Project Tracking enable Explorer Pipeline to get quick snapshot views of their projects at any point in time.

About Encore Business Solutions

Since its inception in 1990, Encore, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, has been and remains dedicated to the delivery of Microsoft Dynamics™ GP, both as an Independent Solution Vendor and a Value Added Reseller. We develop and support world-class, high quality products that extend the functionality of Microsoft Dynamics GP. We help organizations realize the efficiency and enhance their business value with flexible and scalable products tailored for any business model. We have solutions for Project Tracking with Advanced Analytics, Recurring Contract Billing and Bank Reconciliation. As well we've added Advanced SmartList and Inventory I/O Control.

Furthering your
Success through
innovative
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