

## working with Brovanture, Vision Express now has an evolutionary tool for finance

### Vision Express finance team takes retail operation analysis to a new level

Vision Express, the third largest optical retailer in the UK and part of GrandVision, had been a user of Oracle Essbase for some 10 years. During this time, they had created and modified various applications based around sales and profitability. Vision Express took the decision to upgrade Oracle Essbase to the latest version and to review the additional capabilities provided by Oracle SmartView for Office.

Vision Express also had an additional requirement to improve their reporting ability and expose a broader group of finance team members to the capabilities of Oracle Essbase. Through a Brovanture structured training program, finance team members were enabled to further modify existing applications and to develop new applications for other aspects of the business such as VAT, asset depreciation and profitability. In particular, Vision Express wished to create a new salary costs application to assist with staff budgeting.

#### challenges

- Many Vision Express users had only a basic understanding of Oracle Essbase which limited its use
- Development of new applications was constrained by the small number of finance staff able to carry out this work
- Payroll analysis was difficult as actual and budget data came from different sources that had different structures
- Vision Express still relied on disconnected spreadsheets for reporting and analysis which caused delays and errors

#### results

The development of a new Payroll application allows Vision Express to efficiently calculate and analyse expenditure across salaries, benefits and costs. They are now also able to develop new applications on their own so moving a large amount of analysis work from disconnected spreadsheets into Oracle Essbase.

Substantial finance 'production' time has been saved, a clear audit trail has been established and the potential errors from multiple interlinked spreadsheets has been removed. Essbase has become an evolutionary tool for finance and is now used by a number of different areas for analysis across a broad spectrum of their retail operation.

#### execution

As it was necessary to build an application that worked for both the payroll and finance styles of reporting, Brovanture worked closely with both departments to make sure that they totally understood the different data structures and therefore could merge them correctly. Brovanture developed the application in iterations and went through the application with both departments after each step was completed. This allowed all parties to be certain that the project was progressing and working as it should be.

As the main users of the payroll application had never used Oracle SmartView for Office before, Brovanture carried out specialised training that was customised to fit the Vision Express model and their specific reporting requirements. This allowed the users to have a better understanding of the Oracle Essbase application that was being developed and they could make their own individual input to the project. In addition, Brovanture carried out similar training with other groups of employees, using presentations, demonstrations and exercises to provide them with improved capabilities around Oracle Essbase administration and Oracle SmartView for Office reporting. This strategy has enabled Vision Express to move forward largely independent of further consulting input.

## about Vision Express

Vision Express is the third largest optical retailer in the UK and part of GrandVision, the global optical retailer, operating across 44 countries and spanning 6,100 stores and online. GrandVision is committed to delivering superior, high quality and affordable eye care to more and more people around the world.

With 593 stores nationwide, Vision Express first opened its doors in Newcastle in 1988. Since then it has gone from strength

to strength, driven by a commitment to unparalleled customer service and providing the best personalised optical care, style and quality. Customers can select from a wide range of frames and lenses for glasses, contact lenses and sunglasses, allowing everybody to reflect their individual personalities and lifestyles.

With over 4,000 employees, Vision Express makes a difference to the communities it

operates within, and as part of its commitment to Vision. Taken Seriously, and as a responsible and caring retailer, it is proud to partner with a range of healthcare charities, which have touched the lives of customers and teams. These companies provide vital support to people affected by vision-related conditions.

[www.visionexpress.com](http://www.visionexpress.com)

## about Brovanture

Brovanture Ltd, established in 2005, is a specialist provider of Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions across all sectors and organizations, irrespective of size or budget. Initially, a Hyperion Partner, Brovanture became an Oracle Partner following Oracle's takeover of Hyperion and is

also an Oracle NetSuite Partner. In January 2018 Brovanture became the 1st Oracle Fully Certified Cloud Excellence Implementer for Enterprise Planning and Budgeting in the UK & IRL. Brovanture is an accredited supplier with G-Cloud and the Crown Commercial Service and has ISO9001 and ISO27001 accreditations.

The Brovanture team of highly skilled professionals deliver excellence, ensure success, and are experienced in providing services to a wide range of commercial and public sector organizations including Ted Baker, discoverIE, Reading Borough Council and Channel 4 Television.

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