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Arqiva streamlines budgeting, forecasting, and reporting to 'enable a switched-on world' with Brovanture

Arqiva had used Oracle Hyperion Planning on-premises for more than 10 years. Beginning with a single application, this had escalated to 12 production applications by 2019, all developed by different consultants and employees over this period. There was little consistency and integration between the applications, offering scope to gain greater efficiency by simplifying and automating processes.

"Brovanture engaged with users and stakeholders right across the business. They supported us by helping to identify the right people to get involved. This improved the outcome and helped ownership of the solution. This collaborative approach worked really well, especially considering most of the work had to be done remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

Ruth Shervell, Financial Planning Manager, Arqiva

Business challenges

Arqiva's application maintenance was complex and drained resources. Data and metadata integration between applications was manual (increasing the risk of errors) and time-consuming and could only be carried out by a few key employees. Efficiency was reduced through the lack of role-based planning, and the inability to use Oracle Smart View for Microsoft Office meant thorough analysis of the data was lacking.

Why Oracle Cloud EPM Planning

A major finance transformation project to re-implement their Oracle EBS ERP solution across the entire business also included budgeting, forecasting, and reporting applications as an additional project. As a result of an RFP in September 2019, the Oracle Cloud EPM Planning solution was selected, with Brovanture as the partner to assist in its implementation.

Results

From the beginning, Arqiva were clear on the project objectives, which were to:

- Decrease the time taken to budget

- Support the generation of all financial statements

- Enable monthly reforecasting

- Enable a deep dive into the numbers at any time

- Gain a high level of automatic integration with their re-implemented Oracle EBS and new Oracle Cloud HCM solutions

- Empower business leaders and cost center managers through improved financial budgeting and reporting

The integrations with Oracle EBS needed to include GL, capital and contract projects and leases. Salary and role information should come directly from Oracle Cloud HCM automatically for budgeting and forecasting. Analysis should be done via Oracle Smart View.

To meet these requirements, Brovanture designed and implemented Oracle Cloud EPM Planning so that Arqiva could run and report on budgets year-to-date, plus two years forward, create mid-year forecasts for the same timeframes, create monthly forecasts, and carry out actual vs budget analysis using Oracle Smart View.

Underlying the new application were five models:

1. **Margin by billable projects**

   - Project metadata and actuals integration from Oracle EBS OPA projects module

   - Utilizes Oracle EBS contract info to budget forward

2. **Group balance sheet and P&L**

   - In line with new Oracle EBS chart of accounts

   - Metadata and actuals integrated from Oracle EBS GL

3. **Shared costs by site**

   - Allocate shared costs based on set percentages

4. **Resource planning by role**

   - Personnel costs and headcount/FTE actuals integrated from Oracle Cloud HCM

5. **Capex planning by project**

   - Project metadata and actuals integrated from Oracle EBS OPA Projects module

The solution met the objectives initially outlined by Arqiva. The company now has a single version of the truth for budget vs actual comparisons and automating manual processes has improved the accuracy of information. Direct automatic integrations with source systems have reduced process time and effort, with actual information refreshed every 30 minutes, enabling improved information accuracy and timeliness and increased user confidence. Budgeting and forecasting processes are now more flexible, straightforward, and faster, plus users have the time, tools, and information to do more value-add analysis.

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> "Brovanture were great to work with. Through our partnership approach, they were there to support us throughout the process and were very flexible in meeting our requirements. We needed a major change late in the project; they were determined it would not delay us going live on time and it didn't!"

Ruth Kirby, Head of Finance Transformation, Arqiva

About Brovanture

Brovanture Ltd, established in 2005, is a specialist provider of Oracle and NetSuite 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 a NetSuite Solution Provider. Brovanture is an 'Oracle Certified Expert Partner' for Oracle Cloud EPM and Oracle Hyperion solutions, is an accredited supplier with G-Cloud and the Crown Commercial Service and has Cyber Essentials, 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 organizations including Edrington UK, Department of Health and Social Care, Mount Street Group, discoverIE, Arqiva, Reading Borough Council and Channel 4 Television.