Industry

• Aerospace

Products

• Microsoft Excel

• Microsoft SQL Server (SSIS, SSAS, SSRS)

• Neudesic ETL Accelerator

• Neudesic Reporting Accelerator

Challenge

The number of reports generated by the company's reporting system made it difficult for users to find information and put a strain on IT resources. Ball Aerospace needed a self-service reporting solution that would make information easy to access with minimal IT support.

Solution

Using Microsoft SQL Server, Neudesic developed an enterprise data warehouse that integrated multiple information sources. Neudesic leveraged its ETL Accelerator with SQL Server Integration Systems to develop processing standards, and then developed cubes to allow user customization. Drill through capabilities were also incorporated to provide transparency.

Benefit

• Users are easily able to access information with Microsoft Excel

• Financial information is updated on a daily basis and provides 'point in time' reporting

• The new platform is highly supportable and extensible for future development

Enterprise Data Warehouse and Integration

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation is a leader in design, development and manufacture of innovative aerospace systems. The company produces spacecraft, instruments and sensors, RF and microwave technologies, data exploitation solutions, and a variety of advanced aerospace technologies and products that enable exciting aerospace missions.

Ball Aerospace is known for its contributions in support of space and Earth science, exploration, national security, and intelligence programs. Ball Aerospace was also a pioneer in the development of the commercial remote sensing market, producing imaging systems and spacecraft that helped spawn a new market-driven demand for imagery.

Putting the EDW capability in place is challenging, but we are beginning to reap the rewards. It is putting a powerful tool into the hands of our people who work on programs, giving them unique insights into their cost and productivity performance faster than ever before.

Bill Unger, VP Finance,
Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation

Project Highlights

• Ball Aerospace had deployed SAP BusinessObjects to provide reporting capabilities across a number of LOB applications, including two instances of Deltek Costpoint used for financial management

• The number of reports made it difficult for users to find information they needed and nearly impossible for IT to provide support

• Ball Aerospace engaged Neudesic to deliver a self-service business intelligence solution for their finance organization

• Neudesic developed an enterprise data warehouse using Microsoft SQL Server to integrate financial information from multiple instances of Costpoint and other sources

• Ball Aerospace users from various functional areas tested the system and validated the accuracy of the data

• Neudesic provided Ball's IT staff with the training to support the system with minimal effort

Enterprise Data Warehouse and Integration

The Challenge

Ball Aerospace deployed SAP BusinessObjects to provide reporting capabilities across a number of LOB applications, including two instances of Deltek Costpoint used for financial management. Over time, the significant number of reports generated by this

> *Neudesic's expertise with the Microsoft environment was a really strong asset for us, as was its close relationship with Microsoft. We were working with people who had early and broad access to the emerging technologies at Microsoft.*
>
> *Dalal Schneider*
> *Director of Solutions Development,*
> *IT Services*
> *Ball Aerospace & Technologies, Corp.*

solution made it difficult for business users to find the information they needed and nearly impossible for IT to support, given other initiatives. Ball Aerospace needed a self-service reporting solution that would allow business users to access the information they need quickly and easily with minimal IT involvement.

The Solution

Ball Aerospace engaged Neudesic to deliver a self-service business intelligence solution for their finance organization. Using Microsoft SQL Server, Neudesic developed an enterprise data warehouse

that integrated financial information from multiple instances of Costpoint, as well as some additional data sources.

Neudesic leveraged its ETL Accelerator with SQL Server Integration Services to establish a standard for ETL processing that would load data from source systems into the data warehouse.

Using SQL Server Analysis Services, Neudesic developed cubes that allow business users to create their own views of information in Microsoft Excel. Neudesic applied security to protect sensitive data and incorporated drill through capabilities to expose financial transaction detail.

Finally, Neudesic leveraged its Reporting Accelerator to provide a common 'look and feel' and replaced some of their existing reporting using SQL Server Reporting Services.

Ball Aerospace provided a team of business users from various functional areas to test the system and validate the accuracy of the data. The company developed training courses to introduce pivot table functionality in Excel. Ball Aerospace also instructed users how to leverage the financial data that was now available to them. "Putting the EDW capability in place is challenging, but we are beginning to reap the rewards," said Bill Unger, VP of Finance, Ball Aerospace. "It is putting a powerful tool into the hands of our people who work on programs, giving them unique insights into their cost and productivity performance faster than ever before."

The Benefit

More than 75 business users are now able to access information they need on a daily basis using Microsoft Excel, and new users are being trained as needed. Financial information is updated on a daily basis and provides not only current information but 'point in time' reporting for historical analysis. "We are experiencing a strong pull from program personnel to get them trained and allow access to EDW. The next phase will be driving applications of the tool that drive real operational efficiency and cost savings," said Unger.

Neudesic provided Ball's IT technicians with the training they needed to support the system with minimal effort. Using its proven methodologies and accelerators, Neudesic provided a robust reporting platform that is highly supportable and extensible for future development and is currently working with Ball Aerospace to leverage this architecture to assist other business areas. "Our strategy has been to leverage Microsoft products where we could and building our enterprise data warehouse was no exception. We especially benefitted from the familiar look and feel of Excel services. The EDW is a solid foundation for us to build on going forward," said Scott Chrisbacher, VP of Information Technology and Business Process Improvement, Ball Aerospace.