

Ampacet and iQ4bis: Brightening Your World with Color

Coordinating globally

Ampacet Corporation is the world's leading volume provider of the pelletized pigments that add colors to plastics. The company spans the globe with 12 manufacturing sites on four continents. Managing such a global enterprise is challenging.



“We never had a global view of our organization,” says John Smith, Business Intelligence Data Warehousing Manager for Ampacet Corporation. “We had reports from different facilities around the globe coming in different formats, at different times, and containing different data. By the time we could normalize the data and analyze our performance in standardized terms, the information was out-of-date. We needed a system that would allow us to get virtually real-time information from our facilities, regardless of where they were located, so that we could respond faster.”

Ampacet had implemented the PICK database at their US and overseas facilities early on. “PICK was great,” says Smith, “but as our information requirements grew, it couldn't keep pace. We decided to upgrade the systems in our larger US-based facilities to JD Edwards ERP.”

A two-tiered dilemma

JD Edwards worked well for the larger factories, but was cost-prohibitive for some international and smaller locations. “We still had two separate systems” says Smith. “Our biggest headaches were very basic—we couldn't easily switch between metric and imperial

Growing the Business Meant Achieving a Global View

Business challenges

- Older PICK ERP was falling behind
- Upgrade to JD Edwards ERP worked well, but only for larger plants
- Two separate ERP systems meant no global view of the business
- By the time data from the two systems was normalized, it was out of date

Business results

- Provides near real-time metrics of a worldwide enterprise
- Extended the life of legacy systems around the globe
- Enhanced and speeded decision-making processes
- Ease-of-use means streamlined training process for new users



Ampacet and iQ4bis: Brightening Your World with Color (continued)

measures and currency conversions were a nightmare. Finally the word came down from our CEO that he wanted a global view.”

Finding a global solution was time consuming. “We looked at all the data warehouse and business intelligence (BI) solutions on the market,” says Smith. “They were too expensive, too complex, too rigid, or too restricting. Then we found iQ4bis, a new BI solution optimized to run in conjunction with JD Edwards.”

Now Smith manages a whole network of iQ4bis systems from his home office in Indiana. “I can monitor inventory in Thailand, track production in Texas, and look at sales by territory from our sales reps in British Columbia,” he says. “With iQ4bis, we have a global view of our operations.”

iQ4bis has saved money by extending the life of the PICK database at the smaller facilities. For example, Ampacet just installed iQ4bis at their Thailand facility which still uses the PICK system. “With iQ4bis, we can continue to use PICK for our local requirements,” says Smith, “and we still have all the advantages of the fully functional BI solution to give us the metrics we need to make informed decisions.”

“With iQ4bis, we have a global view of our operations.”

John Smith, Business Intelligence Data Warehousing Manager, Ampacet Corp.

iQ4bis training is painless

“We can train new users in less than 15 minutes. We give them a quick demo, show them where to find the data and they’re able to drive the system independently,” says Smith. “Enabling our staff to do their own analysis takes a lot of pressure off the IT team, who can now spend their time focused on more pressing work.”

Since implementing iQ4bis, Ampacet has been able to respond to market forces much more quickly. “We can now see exactly what is going on in our various facilities with a few clicks of the mouse,” says Smith. “Our CEO is an enthusiastic user. iQ4bis lets him keep current with trends and patterns that were almost impossible to perceive before iQ4bis.”



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Who uses iQ4bis in Ampacet

- Chief Executive & Upper Level Management
- Sales and Marketing Teams
- Industrial Division Manager
- International Facility Managers

Benefits for AMPACET

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Associated platforms

- JD Edwards ERP
- IBM RS6000
- Oracle Database
- PICK D3 Database Management System
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000

iQ4bis VIEWS

- iQ4bis Analysis
- iQ4bis DataServer
- iQ4bis Budget
- iQ4bis Reporting Services

Key Reasons Ampacet selected iQ4bis

- Addressed all of Ampacet’s requirements including cost and capabilities
- Cost-effective site licensing for world-wide roll-out
- Proof of Concept demonstrated immediate benefits
- Ability to interface cleanly with JD Edwards ERP environment

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