

Top Civil Engineering Firm Uses Jet Enterprise to Streamline Reporting for Microsoft Dynamics® AX



Civil engineering and building company J. Murphy & Sons Limited worked closely with their Microsoft partner to select Jet Enterprise for their business intelligence and reporting solution to speed-up monthly financial reporting processes while keeping a tight handle on project costs.

Murphy is one of the UK and Ireland's most respected names in civil engineering and building. Founded over 60 years ago, today the business is not only integral to the UK's infrastructure, it is also expanding rapidly across international markets. As well as being associated with numerous high-profile British and Irish construction and engineering projects, the group has successfully grown locally and, despite economic challenges, has expanded into the Australian market.

Maintaining a strong business in a difficult economy means Murphy's managers need to have a tight handle on sales, costs, and exact profitability—by location, by project, and by month. They must also have a clear line-of-sight across performance for the financial year-to-date, so that they can monitor progress relative to budgets, projections, and previous years' achievements.



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- Clare O'Hara,
J. Murphy & Sons
Limited

The Challenge

Manual report manipulation impaired timely access to critical business information

Arriving at this precise, granular information requires a steady stream of reliable, accurate, up-to-date information from the company's core IT systems. Yet, as the business continued to grow and diversify, Murphy found that its original financial management software was struggling to meet its needs.

After reviewing the market, Murphy chose an end-to-end enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, from software partner m-hance, based on the Microsoft Dynamics AX platform that was tailored to the specific needs of the construction industry. The project did not end there, however. Although the new system was capturing a lot of vital business information, the volume and complexity of Murphy's reporting needs still required a degree of manual intervention.

To enable close business monitoring and agile decision-making, senior staff needed insightful monthly updates in a more timely manner.

“We wanted a system which would enable seamless integration of reporting processes and give us full confidence in its output,” said Clare O'Hara, Murphy's Information System Manager. “The growth of the company in recent years created a tangible need for improving reporting efficiency and achieving better use of the finance team's resources.”

To derive maximum value from the ERP system, it was vital that the data held within it could be exploited reliably to facilitate quick decision making. It soon became clear that additional reporting capabilities would be required.

The Solution

Faster, more flexible reporting to enable customized financial intelligence

Company managers knew they wanted to reduce the time to produce reports but without the prohibitive cost of many business intelligence solutions on the market. Murphy also required a proven solution that would integrate tightly into its existing Dynamics AX system to develop a number of customized financial reports, delivered monthly to managers.

Murphy relied on the expertise of Jet Reports partner m-hance to choose the advanced reporting and business intelligence solution, Jet Enterprise. In partnership with Jet Reports, m-hance has managed the customization of Jet Enterprise and is now in the final stages of helping Murphy test and prepare the complete solution for live implementation.

In a successful proof-of-concept, it was shown how easily job-profit statements could be created using Jet Enterprise. The financial statements can be presented in a number of different ways, showing performance for each project by turnover, profit/loss and cost in the given month, and how this looks in the context of the financial year to date, and against the contract to date. All of this information feeds into a cost summary for each region.



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The Results

Easy-to-access business intelligence helps Murphy prepare for the future

The powerful offering of Jet Enterprise will ensure that Murphy's reporting process takes less than half of the time previously required to create reports and dashboards, considerably improving efficiency.

"With our integrated system and Jet Enterprise, we will not only increase accuracy but also dramatically free up the finance team to spend more time on value-adding activities," says Clare. "This will streamline the company's reporting, drive cost-effectiveness and increase the efficiency in responding to costing and sales' trends."

The company is looking forward to a future where decisions are fueled by insights resulting from their new business intelligence capabilities.

"Jet Enterprise will help with decision-making at a high level. The main benefit is that we will be able to free up people to interrogate the data instead of just producing it," said Tom Cassidy, Financial Controller at Murphy.

Looking to the future, Tom adds, "We've done the hard part now, in implementing a system that collects valuable, actionable data. Going forward, we'll continue to develop and adapt this so that we can exploit it to maximum potential."

To learn more about Jet Reports, please visit us online today.

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