

Business Intelligence Lets ABB Controllers Get Right Information, Fast

Data warehouse developed with help from Capgemini provides improved access to management information within the entire group

The Situation

ABB, one of the world's biggest companies in the field of power and automation technology employs over 100,000 employees. ABB's Corporate Control unit processes and distributes huge amounts of information throughout the organization each month. As this process requires considerable resources, the company sought an easier, more efficient way to distribute and analyze the information from a group-wide ABACUS reporting system.

The Solution

Capgemini developed a data warehouse for ABB using the Microsoft ETL, Data Warehouse and OLAP cubes tools. Incoming results, forecasts and budgets from the group reporting system are gathered in the warehouse. ABB also implemented

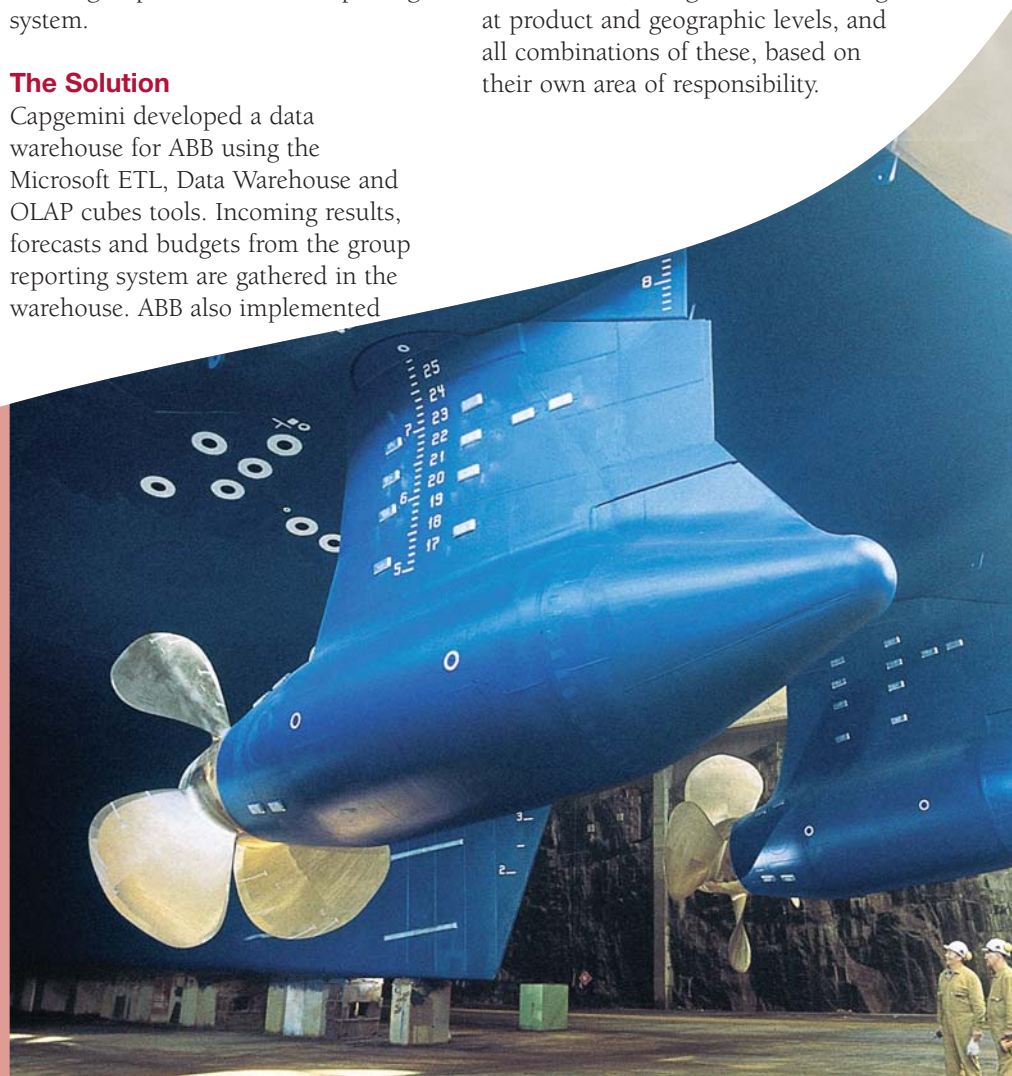
the ProClarity analysis and presentation tool, which displays the information and allows users to analyze it at every possible level.

The Result

Today, ABB has a very efficient method of distributing its financial information, so that it reaches all users at the same time, securely. Now each controller and manager at ABB can analyze the financial values of the current status, budget and forecasting at product and geographic levels, and all combinations of these, based on their own area of responsibility.

“Capgemini is an excellent partner for us. It understands our business and has solid expertise in finance and IT.”

Thomas Andersson,
Assistant Vice President,
ABB



How ABB and Capgemini Worked Together

ABB's reporting unit, based in Zurich, Switzerland, is where final group accounts are generated. Users, located in some 70 countries on all continents, need information to analyze the group's profit statements based on their own product focus or geographical areas of responsibility.

Corporate Control consolidated information retrieved from each reporting unit to the group-wide ABACUS reporting system. The information was consolidated in a range of reporting packages and sent out via Lotus Notes to affected users. The process required considerable group resources providing different types of financial information to hundreds of users, concurrently.

To manage and gain control over such extensive information, ABB chose a business intelligence (BI) solution based on a financial data warehouse and help from Capgemini to deploy it. All information from the group reporting system has now been transferred to ABB's data warehouse for central storage. Capgemini developed a process to automatically calculate quarterly and monthly values from the information. Solutions were built to transfer data from ABB's data warehouse to OLAP cubes with pre-calculated totals. A ProClarity tool generates presentations using the cubes.

The BI solution gives ABB an excellent overview of its organization and business processes, even when managing extremely large amounts of complex data. Now over 1,500 registered users have direct access to the information in the data warehouse via the Group Intranet.

The BI solution is not static. With Capgemini's help, it evolves to match ABB's development. New customers, services or change of financial focus all require new reporting codes so that supporting financial data can be created quickly. Changes in trends

dictate that ABB may need to quickly adapt its company structure. The solution takes this into consideration. For changes to company organization, historical financial information can be adjusted with little effort to allow comparison between historical values and the new organization's performance. ABB regards its partnership with Capgemini as highly flexible and values the expertise in finance and IT by its consultants.

The greatest benefit to Corporate Control is simplification of report generation which has saved significant

time for users who can download data to conduct analysis themselves. ABB's financial reporting has always been high quality. One benefit of the new BI solution is added flexibility when working with the information.

Using OLAP technology in the analysis tool, decision makers review information at a detailed level to allow ABB to make sound decisions for better business performance. Giving staff around the world access to the right business information allows better decision making and more in-depth collaboration within the company.



About Capgemini and the Collaborative Business Experience

Capgemini, one of the world's foremost providers of Consulting, Technology and Outsourcing services, has a unique way of working with its clients, called the Collaborative Business Experience. Backed by over three decades of industry and service experience, the Collaborative Business Experience is designed to help our clients achieve better, faster, more sustainable results through seamless access to our network of

world-leading technology partners and collaboration-focused methods and tools. Through commitment to mutual success and the achievement of tangible value, we help businesses implement growth strategies, leverage technology, and thrive through the power of collaboration. Capgemini employs approximately 61,000 people worldwide and reported 2005 global revenues of 6,954 million euros. More information is available at www.capgemini.com

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In collaboration with



ABB is a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. ABB

has offices in 87 countries to support its global and local customers. ABB has supplied more than half of the High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter stations in the world and has helped countries all across the globe build, develop and maintain their infrastructures. The ABB group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 107,000 people.