

70 First-Class Projects on the Radar Each Month!

ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH is a world-leading systems supplier for naval electronics in submarines and surface vessels. Each month, its project control specialists handle approximately 70 major international projects with tight deadlines.

To increase the degree of effectiveness and transparency in project control and to reduce the manual workload of its project teams and project control specialists, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH decided to implement a Management Cockpit based on SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence 7.0 and turned to REALTECH for assistance.

: success story

ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH

 **ATLAS ELEKTRONIK**
A joint company of ThyssenKrupp and EADS

Sabine Gillmeier
Head of Controlling, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH

"The Management Cockpit allows for cross-department reporting and project control on a consistent platform, based on clearly defined data sources, thus meeting the requirements of the different hierarchy levels within the company."



Images:
ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH


REALTECH
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About ATLAS ELEKTRONIK

In the worldwide market, ATLAS group supplies the complete functional chain from sensor-to-shooter. Its products include sonars, integrated combat systems, heavyweight torpedoes, mine disposal weapons, and underwater vehicles (remotely and autonomously operated). It equips conventional submarines and mine warfare vessels.

In cooperation with its partners, ATLAS provides system integration services for surface vessels (supplying the sonar, combat management and navigation systems) for OPVs (Offshore Patrol Vessel), corvettes and frigates. With its integrated radio and communication systems, ATLAS is able to connect all naval ship and shore based platforms into a network-based environment.

Based on this state-of-the-art technology, ATLAS offers tailored solutions for the market of maritime security in terms of vessel traffic control and coastal surveillance.

Today, ATLAS ELEKTRONIK Group has approximately 1,800 employees.

Excel – A Universal Project Management Solution?

Over the years, Excel-based project reporting (ContractReviewDataPack) had become the established practice at ATLAS. It was used to report on approximately 70 first-class projects each month. Consequently, 70 projects had to be manually modified in the CRDP twelve times per year. There were only very few standards governing this form of reporting. This resulted in the uncontrolled growth of isolated information islands created by the individual users, which in turn produced a lack of transparency. Cross-sectional and summarized analyses in particular required substantial manual effort.

SAP data and the analyses based upon it were readily accessible mainly to the controlling department and made available to other departments only by request.

At the same time, however, any user could access and modify highly sensitive data in the Excel-based CRDP because all users had read and write access. Furthermore, the decentralized and individual data storage made it impossible to automatically back up and archive project data. The objective was to eliminate these information silos at ATLAS in order to achieve greater project transparency in the company.

Putting a Brake on Uncontrolled Growth!

According to Sabine Gillmeier, Head of Controlling at ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, the objective was to *"establish an automated and standardized project reporting system with which users could quickly familiarize themselves and that would be easy to use."*

Manual data entry was to be reduced as much as possible to increase data quality. A consolidated SAP dataset was to be the sole source of data for reporting purposes. A Management Cockpit was to be created in SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Portal that would help the relevant employees perform analyses via an easy-to-use Web interface.

The objective was to achieve a level of standardization and automation that would give the controlling department more time to actually manage its projects.

Trust That Paid Off

The decision to tackle the project in cooperation with REALTECH was driven by the many years of experience that the consultancy has in managing Business Intelligence and Enterprise Portal projects and by its excellent relations with SAP.

"The trust we have put in REALTECH has paid off. Throughout the entire project, the consultancy stood out with its expert consulting services coupled with its flexible project realization," said Sabine Gillmeier, Head of Controlling at ATLAS ELEKTRONIK.

SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence as a Central Component

To address the requirements outlined by ATLAS, the project was divided into several stages. The first step was to upgrade the relevant SAP system from R/3 4.6c to ECC 6.0. Then, REALTECH developed an implementation concept and a corresponding prototype based on the specifications set forth by ATLAS. During this process, REALTECH used SAP standards whenever possible. Following the presentation of the prototype, the management board quickly accepted and approved the overall project. After only eight months, ATLAS saw its new project reporting system go live. Over this eight-month period, REALTECH completed the upgrade from R/3 4.6c to ECC 6.0, implemented SAP Business Intelligence in combination with a data storage concept, and created a Management Cockpit for project reporting in SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Portal.

Two to Three More Days per Month to Perform Actual Project Control Tasks!

The introduction of the Management Cockpit developed by REALTECH enabled ATLAS to substantially reduce the time spent on creating project reports while at the same time increasing the value of the information provided. Employees at ATLAS now have sound data foundation to base their work on and additional performance indicators (e.g. Earned Value Analysis) at their disposal.

The manual workload of the individual project control specialists was reduced by two to three days per month. The entire process was mapped in the portal, which can be accessed by ATLAS employees from any location. Reports and analyses can be automatically created by the system. SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence now serves as the company's uniform data source. Furthermore, it is now possible to historize the planning status on a monthly basis and to create different planning versions to ensure the quality of the data.