



Sutlej Textiles finds a solution that suits its business with IBM and SAP

Overview

■ The Challenge

With competitive pressures increasing, Sutlej Textiles needed an integrated ERP environment to help it improve efficiency, flexibility and speed of response. The company lacked a single, clear view of processes and performance across its diverse and complex operations, hindering its plans to win market share from competitors.

■ The Solution

Sutlej Textiles selected OBTextile, a qualified SAP Business All-in-One partner solution from ZenSar OBT Technologies Limited, based on SAP ERP 6.0 software, and running in two logical partitions on an IBM System i 550 server under the IBM i operating system.

■ The Benefits

The integrated ERP environment delivers accurate, timely, integrated data spanning all activities and processes, giving Sutlej Textiles a clear view of performance across all aspects of its business. Running the software on the IBM System i platform ensures extremely high reliability, availability and performance - at low total cost of ownership.

■ Key Solution Components

*Industry: Manufacturing
Applications: OBTextile, a qualified SAP® Business All-in-One partner solution from ZenSar OBT Technologies Limited, based on SAP ERP 6.0
Hardware: IBM® System i™ 550, IBM 3580 Tape Library
Software: IBM i®, IBM DB2® for i
Services: IBM, SAP, IBM Business Partner ZenSar OBT Technologies Ltd.*

Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited, part of the K K Birla conglomerate, is a major producer of textiles in India. The company's activities span all stages of textile production, from spinning and weaving to dyeing, finishing and even the manufacture of clothing. With a marketing network in 60 countries around the globe, Sutlej Textiles has ambitious plans to reach US\$ 240 million in annual revenues within the next two years.

To keep pace with rapid changes in the global textiles industry, and to meet the challenge of its revenue-growth targets, Sutlej Textiles needed to improve efficiency across its end-to-end business processes. Textiles is a highly competitive sector, and there is constant pressure to cut costs while improving quality and time-to-market for an increasingly diverse range of products. Sutlej Textiles recognized that implementing an integrated ERP solution could both help it achieve these goals and enable improved business control and transparency.

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General Manager Corporate – IT
Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited

Tailor-made for textiles

Following a procurement exercise that shortlisted three potential software vendors, Sutlej Textiles chose the SAP ERP application as its strategic platform, and opted to implement it on the IBM System i platform. The company selected the OBTextile solution, a qualified SAP Business All-in-One partner solution from ZenSar OB Technologies Limited, a global IT and BPO services firm and IBM Business Partner. OBTextile is a pre-configured solution, based on SAP ERP 6.0, tailored to suit small and mid-sized textile companies. The solution includes sector-specific templates and workflows to increase the speed of adoption for textile companies and enable maximum return on investment.

As this was the first integrated ERP solution ever installed by Sutlej Textiles, the company drew on the experience of external project partners to ensure that the implementation and customization ran smoothly. Vipin

Shotriya, General Manager Corporate – IT, Sutlej Textiles, comments: “The excellent teamwork between IBM, SAP and ZenSar helped us to complete the implementation rapidly and effectively, and kept the rollout costs low. In particular, the quality of the service and support from IBM has been second to none.”

The OBTextile solution supports all of the production planning, materials management, manufacturing, financial, sales and marketing processes at Sutlej Textiles, and provides a single, integrated view of business performance to senior management. In addition to ensuring efficient, transparent processes, the SAP software enables rapid response to changing market conditions and improved collaboration between different internal teams.

“With the OBTextile solution based on SAP ERP, we have significantly improved control over business processes,” says Vipin Shotriya. “In addition, the integrated nature of the solution simplifies access to accurate, timely data - which is particularly useful for marketing. The added transparency and ability to drill down through reports to see low-level detail is a significant benefit for management. We anticipate major benefits from SAP ERP and OBTextile in terms of our ability to compete more effectively in an increasingly globalized market.”

Right-sized solution

As a mid-sized company operating in an extremely competitive business environment, Sutlej Textiles must



keep tight control over its IT costs. By selecting an IBM System i 550 server with advanced logical partitioning capabilities, Sutlej Textiles was able to implement the production and development environments for its SAP solution on the same physical machine, sharing processing resources flexibly. In addition to avoiding the cost of buying, installing, powering and maintaining a second physical server, the company benefits from a single, integrated backup procedure for all its SAP data.

The i550 runs IBM i for Power Systems and includes integrated IBM DB2 information management software. The integration of the DB2 database with the operating system typically obviates the requirement for a dedicated database administrator – and this is certainly the case at Sutlej Textiles, where Vipin Shotriya is able to manage the entire SAP and System i environment on his own.

He comments: “First and foremost, the IBM System i platform’s low cost of ownership is based on its excellent reliability and availability. The server and operating system are absolutely stable and require very little maintenance to keep running optimally. Second, the integrated DB2 database represents a major value advantage – there is no additional software to buy, and the IBM i operating system automatically manages most of the tasks for which we would otherwise need to employ a database administrator.”

The size of the auxiliary storage pool (ASP) for the production partition of the

i550 is approximately 400GB, around 100GB of which represents the SAP databases. There are more than 300 named users for the SAP solution at Sutlej Textiles, of whom typically 200 are concurrent.

“The performance provided by the i550 is excellent, with fast response times for all users,” says Vipin Shotriya. “The use of logical partitioning to host the production and development environments on the same physical server gives us a great deal of flexibility. For example, we can shrink the size of the development partition if we anticipate heavy demand for services on the production partition, ensuring that we can maintain high performance even when demand peaks.”

Sutlej Textiles uses the native backup and recovery capabilities of IBM i on the i550, automating the protection of business-critical data. The operating system automatically backs up data to the IBM 3580 Tape Drive in the System i chassis, helps manage tape media, simplifies data recovery, and archives objects to tape based on age and usage criteria.

“The built-in backup and recovery functionality in IBM i saves us a great deal of time and effort, providing an automated solution to protect our SAP data,” says Vipin Shotriya. “This further contributes to the low running costs for the IBM System i solution.”

Compact, reliable, scalable

With SAP software running on the IBM System i platform, Sutlej Textiles has a compact, reliable, high-performance

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ERP environment at low total cost of acquisition.

Says Vipin Shotriya, "The SAP Business All-in-One partner solution from ZenSar gives us all the industry-specific functionality we need built on the rock-solid SAP ERP application. This solution is helping us to tune our business to meet our ambitious strategic growth targets."

The integration of database management and backup and recovery services into the IBM i operating system enables a high degree of automation, keeping the total cost of ownership low as well. Finally, the use of logical partitioning to create independent virtual servers on the i550 machine gives Sutlej Textiles considerable scope to expand and develop its ERP solution without needing to invest in additional hardware.

"The SAP solution manages every aspect of our business, so of course it's crucial to ensure that the software runs well at all times," says Vipin Shotriya. "The quality of the System i server is exceptional - we have had no problems whatsoever, and we are confident that it will continue to meet our requirements as Sutlej Textiles grows."

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