

## Case Study

### Automated Management Accounts model



#### Client

FFP Packaging Solutions Limited (“FFP”)

FFP is the leading British flexible packaging specialist, with clients in the food production industry. Its headquarters are in Northampton, and they provide solutions for market leading, household name brands.

FFP use the Sage ERP X3 fully integrated manufacturing, order processing and accounting system to manage their business.

#### Requirement

FFP, like all companies, produce a monthly set of management accounts which are reviewed by the senior management team within the business. Given the competitive marketplace that FFP operate in, they need to



ensure that they monitor the business financials closely. The management accounts that are produced are a very detailed view of the business and include high level Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements, cashflow reports, as well as detailed departmental, production and employee costs analysis.

FFP’s Finance Director was concerned that a significant amount of the time spent producing management accounts was simply keying numbers into a spreadsheet, and then double checking the numbers that had been entered to ensure that they balanced.

Whilst FFP were keen to automate the production of the Management Accounts directly from their Sage ERP X3 system, they wanted to ensure that the established and professional layout of the management accounts remained unchanged. Additionally, FFP wanted to retain control over future changes to the Management Accounts, and therefore required the solution to be fully flexible, and not rely on on-going support from Inixion.

#### Project Scope

To enable FFP’s existing Management Accounts model to be fully and automatically populated with live data from the Sage ERP X3 system at the touch of a button, whilst ensuring that FFP retained the ability to modify and extend the content of the management accounts model in the future.

## The Solution

Inixion took FFP's existing Management Accounts model, which was created in Microsoft Excel, and replaced all of the values within the model with a formula based system which reads financial data relating to the period, year to date, last year and budget information directly from the Sage ERP X3 system.

The model allows FFP to retain full control over which elements of expense, by department, fall into which sections within the various reports in the model.



A number of control balances were added to the model, to enable FFP to quickly check that the numbers in the model reconciled back to the data that was extracted from the Sage ERP X3 database.

Finally, a simple one touch "Update Data" button was added to the spreadsheet model, allowing FFP to simply enter a period number and click a button, and have its management accounts available minutes later.

## Results

FFP estimate that prior to the automation of the Management Accounts model, it took 4 man days to enter the data into the model and reconcile it back to the General Ledger values in the accounting system.

Now, the Management Accounts model is populated in minutes.

## Comments from FFP

David Perkins, Financial Director at FFP, commented:

*"Inixion provided a first class solution to my problem, and delivered the result on time and on budget.*

*As a result of the project, I am now able to produce my management accounts in significantly less time than before, and my confidence in the numbers that are in the documents is significantly higher, as I know the data is being pulled directly from the Sage ERP X3 accounting modules.*



*A further benefit of the solution is that I can produce a set of Management Accounts at any point during the month, which allows me to keep a close eye on the performance of the business in real time, and can respond to potential issues as they occur."*

## FFP's Website

The website for FFP Packaging Solutions Limited can be found at [www.ffppkg.co.uk](http://www.ffppkg.co.uk).