

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

ACSONE HELPS AGC GLASS EUROPE MODERNIZE THEIR LIGHT PRODUCTION OPTIMIZATION PLATFORM WITH SEAMLESS SOLUTIONS AND EXPERT IMPLEMENTATION

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The new platform developed by Acsonne ensures the sustainability of this critical business system. Furthermore, it reduces the implementation and operation costs thanks to a flexible architecture that fastens the deployment process on the 25 target sites.

Acsonne’s project management was very professional and we appreciated their responsiveness during the hypercare phase.

The new web-based application is highly appreciated by the users.

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→ THE SITUATION: TIME CONSUMING MAINTENANCE OF A BUSINESS CRITICAL APPLICATION

Based in Louvain-la-Neuve, AGC Glass Europe produces, processes and distributes flat glass for the construction, the automotive and the solar markets. It is the European branch of AGC Glass, the world's largest producer of flat glass. AGC Glass Europe comprises over 100 sites throughout Europe, from Spain to Russia, has a worldwide marketing network and employs about 14,500 employees.

Some Building Fabrication sites (about 25) use an optimization platform developed in-house. The obsolescence of the embedded technology and the difficulty to deploy updates to each site have made this application “at risk”, which is not acceptable for AGC Glass Europe.

→ THE CHALLENGE: MAINTENANCE PROCESS OPTIMIZATION; NO LOSS OF FUNCTIONALITY

AGC needs to rewrite this old application with modern technology.

The challenge is to guarantee that the new application behaves exactly as the old one, since the optimization process cannot be altered by this migration.

Furthermore, the deployment process of a new version should be more efficient, enabling an operator to deploy this new version easily to multiple sites with different configurations.

Finally, the application should offer a way to enable “power users” to add user-interface label translations within the system (the application will be available in 5 languages).

→ OUR SOLUTION: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD CLIENT SATISFACTION

Acson's solution:

- First we analyzed the IT environment of AGC, in order to design and propose a solution that fits perfectly within the existing systems and applications;
- We identified services and applications that can be reused within the new application. Particularly we proposed to integrate with the AGC Translation Center for multi-lingual labels;
- We recommended to use the technologies already in place at AGC (Java, JSF) but suggested new libraries and tools that would bring added-value to the new application (in this case Primefaces, JasperReports);
- We analyzed the current application in order to scope the project;
- We worked in an Agile way, transparently with the customer, providing continuous feedbacks and demos along the progress of the software;
- We built an automatic deployment process that enables the operator to target a specific site and to deploy a new version using one single command;
- We delivered a 100% web-based application, which can be deployed either remotely or locally. Also several instances of the application can be deployed on the same server.

→ OUR RESULTS: A SUSTAINABLE, MODERN AND FLEXIBLE APPLICATION THAT CAN BE EASILY DEPLOYED TO MULTIPLE TARGETS

The new application is 100% Java-based, using established standards. The application is easily configurable, which makes it possible to deploy it to different server configurations.

The existing FORTRAN programs used for the optimization computing are embedded within the application using Camel routes.

- The previous reports are now written using the open-source technology JasperReports, accessible both in batch and interactively within the application.
- Multi-lingual aspects are totally based on AGC's Translation Center, enabling the user to add or update a translation, and see the result within the test platform quasi-immediately.
- There is no need to deploy the application on the client workstations (100% web-based), and the deployment process takes just a few minutes, thanks to the automation of the "build" phase and the remote deployment process.

The end-users really appreciate the application. On one hand they can just find all the functionality they used to operate previously and, on the other hand, they discover that the new application optimizes their repetitive tasks.

→ TECHNOLOGIES USED

DATABASE:	Oracle 11g
LANGUAGES:	Java
APPLICATION SERVER:	Tomcat 7
FRAMEWORKS:	Spring, Hibernate, Primefaces, Camel, JUnit
TOOLS:	JasperReports, IReports, SVN
METHODOLOGIES:	Scrum
TESTS:	Unit tests, integration tests, performance tests, acceptance tests
ISSUES:	JIRA

→ PROJECT DETAILS

COUNTRY:	Belgium
PERIOD:	2012-2013

CONTACT US:



+32 2 888 31 20

Belgium:
Boulevard de la Woluwe 56/4 Woluwedal
1200 Brussels



+352 20 21 10 20

Luxembourg:
Zone Industrielle 22, 8287 Kehlen

acsone

www.acsone.eu
info@acsone.eu