

PSC
Formula & Recipe
PLM
Case Study



Pasta Manufacturer Reduces Database Management Time by 75% Using PLM Framework

The Problem – Finding, Managing, Searching Product Information

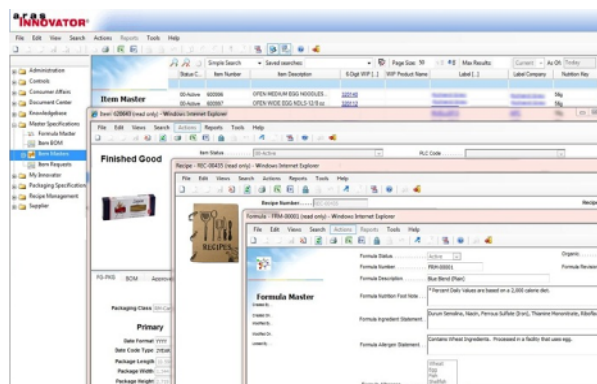
A consumer goods food company with multiple production facilities needed to consolidate and centralize their product specifications, and at the same time transform non-standard data in the form of spreadsheets, documents, and PDF files into searchable and reportable standard data sets. Specifications were being stored in multiple formats, in a variety of shared and private folders across local and wide area networks. The company was spending an estimated 240 hours per month managing 13 separate off-line databases. This environment made it increasingly difficult to locate, share, and maintain current specification values. Adding to the problem was the inability to perform impact analysis on ingredient changes and ingredient supplier changes across entire product lines.

One area in particular affected by this inefficient method of locating and managing critical data was Consumer Affairs. It was estimated that between 8 and 13 hours were being spent responding to product specification requests.

Couple the above with the need of multiple business units to have immediate access to current values, the company found themselves facing daunting and challenging manual processes to manage.

The Analysis – Determine a Goal

Gain the ability to manage product formulas and specifications was time consuming, labor intensive, and was quickly becoming a productivity issue. Consolidating and centralizing all data related to product formulas and specifications were essential for compliance, quality control, and effective & efficient daily operations.



The Solution – A Centralized, Web-Based Framework Leveraging Workflows!

ARAS Innovator (Product Lifecycle Management –PLM) was chosen as the best way to provide all users access to the information anywhere. A PSC Management Consultant was engaged to assist and direct the efforts of identifying and selecting a software solution that would centralize the management of product and packaging

specification data. Having partnered with several business unit users over a period of time, PSC was able to consider and consolidate enterprise level requirements that were shared across the various business units and eventually identified ARAS Innovator as a PLM solution that met current core requirements and was adaptable enough to meet future business requirements as change and growth dictated. ARAS Innovator offered a framework to not only centralize the management of product and packaging specifications, but also to manage the associated attributes of their products like formulas, nutritional values, regulatory claims, supplier ingredient specifications, customers, and consumer affairs claims.

The Technology

- ARAS Innovator
- Model-Based SOA
- XML & SOAP Web Services
- Microsoft Technology
 - SQL Server, .NET, IIS

The Benefits

- Reduced Search Time
- Greater Simplicity
- Better Security



PSC Group, LLC is an information-technology and professional services consulting firm that specializes in business process architecture and back-end integration. We have extensive experience and expertise in the melding of collaboration products with a variety of applications, processes and systems including ERP, CRM, PLM, and Workflow.

When it comes to information management and control of business processes, PSC can provide you with a competitive advantage through the smart application of technology.

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Seeing Results – Standardized Management and Processes

The implementation of the ARAS Innovator solution has standardized the management processes of product specifications and provided the company an ability to more rapidly respond to consumer affairs requests. The time spent responding to consumer affairs requests went from 8 – 13 hours down to less than 30 minutes. The result is a more efficient and effective utilization of the staff's primary quality and product development expertise.

Other benefits have resulted from the implementation of ARAS Innovator. Data once stored in spreadsheets, documents, and PDFs have now been transformed and associated with their specific products. The 240 hours per month spent managing 13 separate off-line databases has been reduced to less than 60 hours per month managing one centralized real-time database. Other systems like the manufacturing operations management solution now read specification data directly from ARAS Innovator and present procedural context to press and packaging operators. Additionally, ARAS Innovator is quickly becoming the framework of choice for developing master data management solutions where systems currently do not exist.

Doing Business Better – Extending Quality Across the Enterprise

What started as a Quality system for product and packaging specifications is now being leveraged in areas outside of Quality to manage related and unrelated data through master data management practices and automated business process workflows. Through a partnership with PSC and the ARAS Innovator PLM framework users are thinking and working in a more collaborative manner, realizing more each day how every data point is related to and needed by other business users within the enterprise.