

SÜD-CHEMIE - A CLARIANT GROUP COMPANY

Upgrading from SQL*LIMS v4.1 system to LABVANTAGE 6

Company Background

Sud-Chemie, Inc. now Clariant, has been a LABVANTAGE customer since 1999. The company produces catalysts, adsorbents, and additives for industrial and consumer markets. In addition to catalysts, they manufacture desiccants, humidity indicators, industrial minerals, and skin protectants. In the spring of 2012, Clariant embarked on an infrastructure modernization project requiring an upgrade of their 13 year old SQL*LIMS v4.1 system to the latest version.

In 2009, LABVANTAGE purchased the SQL*LIMS business from Applied Biosystems and immediately started an extensive engineering effort to merge the SQL*LIMS and LABVANTAGE Sapphire LIMS platforms. In early 2012, LABVANTAGE delivered this new combined technology platform and called it LABVANTAGE 6.

Solution

Clariant chose to upgrade to LABVANTAGE 6 because it offered substantial improvements in usability and functionality, a pure browser based user interface (zero-footprint, multi-browser support), a modern architecture, powerful new reporting capabilities, and most importantly, a seamless migration pathway for their legacy data stored in SQL*LIMS. To better align with Clariant IT standards, the upgraded system would also move away from Oracle and take advantage of Red Hat's JBoss for the web application server and Microsoft SQL Server for the database.

"In 2011 Sud-Chemie was purchased by Clariant, and we were looking for a solution that can run with minimal IT support, provide simple access through a pure web-based solution, and eliminate the custom code we had developed for reporting. We also wanted to connect key instruments to the updated LIMS to gain even better efficiencies" said Sally Davies, Analytical Group Leader at Clariant. To accommodate Clariant's aggressive timeline, LABVANTAGE migrated their legacy SQL*LIMS to LABVANTAGE 6 in less than two months, which is an outstanding outcome for a project of this scale.

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LABVANTAGE made use of an assessment tool that identified any challenges that might emerge during the migration. To automate the movement of legacy SQL*LIMS data to LABVANTAGE 6, an Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) tool called QlikTech Expressor was used. Additionally, LABVANTAGE developed a SQL*LIMS functional overlay for LABVANTAGE 6 to better implement previous SQL*LIMS workflows in the new system. The upgraded LIMS provided more powerful ad-hoc and formatted reporting capabilities, allowing Clariant to replace their legacy custom programs used for SQL*LIMS reporting.

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The LABVANTAGE Connect system was used to automate the connection of the most frequently used laboratory instruments.

Measuring Success

Migrating to LABVANTAGE 6 allowed Clariant to take a quantum leap forward to a solution that simplified usability for users and maintenance for IT administrators. “Without question, this project is a success due to the LABVANTAGE project manager and project team efforts,” stated Davies. The new upgrade not only made the Clariant LIMS system state of the art, but they also gained numerous new capabilities far more cutting-edge than any competing systems

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LABVANTAGE CASE STUDIES
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