

NORCAST CASTINGS

BAASS HELPS NORCAST HONE ITS FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

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Norcast Castings Company Ltd. supplies high-performance parts and equipment for the mining and mineral processing industries and enjoys an unparalleled reputation for delivering superior performance equipment to its global customer base. Its products are shipped to more than 110 mine operators in North and South America, Europe, Central and East Asia. An international business with sales offices worldwide, Norcast demands a powerful, integrated ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solution to manage its diverse and growing operations. Norcast relies on the Sage 300 ERP solution which is expertly supported by BAASS.

Buried Under Monthly Reporting Tasks

The company's head office has utilized Sage 300 ERP for its financial management for years, but the foundry relied on a legacy financial and manufacturing system. As a result, monthly reporting was a lengthy, tedious, and potentially error-prone process of extracting data from the disparate systems and keying it into spreadsheets.

“We would literally spend hours and hours each month generating financial statements for each operation,” recalls Arshad Fazal, general accountant and project manager for Norcast. “Sage 300 ERP was working so well as a financial solution for our corporate offices that we explored expanding its use to our foundry operation.”

A Partner With a Plan

Norcast called on BAASS, its long-term Sage 300 ERP business partner, for guidance. The BAASS consultants performed a detailed requirements analysis before presenting their recommendations. “With a thorough understanding of how we operate and what we needed from the software, they helped us make the right decision,” says Fazal.

Norcast upgraded its Sage 300 ERP solution to the most current version level and broadened the solution's functionality across its operation by adding several new modules, including: Multi-Currency, General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Spanish and French language overlays.

Mine Data for Streamlined Reporting

A major objective for Norcast was to standardize and streamline its financial reporting process, and BAASS provided valuable assistance toward achieving this goal. “BAASS worked with us to standardize our chart of accounts across each of the companies,” Fazal says. “Their accounting knowledge and business experience was very helpful in ensuring it was set up correctly.” The company's account structure is complex, with accounting segments representing details such as plant, machine, and division.

Norcast requires the ability to report upon and consolidate statements for any of these segments. The powerful Sage 300 General Ledger module enables Norcast to have meaningful account numbers as long as 45 characters, and the product's flexible architecture provide the opportunity to use additional industry-standard reporting tools to access the database.

The previously tedious task of generating financial statements has been vastly simplified. “We set up our foundry as a separate location in Sage 300 ERP,” says Fazal. “No more manual data entry and spreadsheets—Now we're able to generate financial statements directly from the software.”

Centralization Streamlines Operations

The inherent remote access capabilities of Sage 300 ERP allow staff to access the system from any location. “Everyone is using the same system, so data is centralized and easy to access,” says Fazal. “I have one location where I can query the activities of each company.” Norcast uses an industry-specific system for its production control. BAASS was able to design and implement an interface from the software into the Sage 300 ERP Accounts Receivable module. “Completed sale information is sent to Sage 300 ERP” explains Fazal. “It's a seamless process that eliminates the need for manual data entry.”

An International Solution

The company operates internationally so the multi-currency and multilingual capabilities of Sage 300 ERP are of vital importance. "Our foundry is in French-speaking Quebec," explains Fazal. "The staff there uses the French language overlay for Sage 300 ERP so that their screens are translated for them. We also have a subsidiary in Chile, and Sage 300 ERP includes an option to use the Spanish language overlay."

Financial reports are generated in either Canadian or U.S. currencies as needed. "And we can easily perform a revaluation of balances at the end of each month. We didn't have this capability before," adds Fazal.

"We value our relationship with BAASS," concludes Fazal. "They help us get the most from Sage 300 ERP".

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About BAASS Business Solutions Inc.

BAASS is a full service technology firm with twenty-five years of industry experience. With a broad client portfolio, BAASS currently serves over 2000 clients across North America and the Caribbean. With a past record of successful system implementations, BAASS has been recognized within the industry on numerous occasions. Recognitions include being ranked in Accounting World's Top 100 VAR's, Accounting Technology Magazine's Pacesetters Award, two consecutive Business Partner of the Year recognitions from Sage Software Inc, and eight consecutive Sage President's Circle awards for being a top performing Business Partner.

With an experienced team of IT and business application and design consultants, BAASS offers a comprehensive range of services from needs assessment, system design & configuration, software training and technical support in accounting, ERP, CRM, e-business, custom web solutions, specializing in Sage HRMS, Sage CRM, Sage 300, and Sage ERP X3 products.