

Case Study: AK Steel



AK Steel Corporation was scheduled to go live with a 1.1 billion dollar state-of-the-art steel manufacturing plant in Rockport, Indiana, January 1998. The world's most profitable steel plant would be managed with Oracle's RDBMS.

The challenge for AK Steel, IBM and Oracle Corporation was to get their home-grown system converted, tested and running with Oracle RDBMS by the January 1998 launch date. Re-engineering was estimated to require several hundred man years.

AK Steel Corporation, in conjunction with IBM Global Services, searched for a packaged solution capable of managing their new maintenance and processing mill. A packaged solution was the ideal choice because of AK Steel's aggressive construction and launch schedule. In the words of John Paul Back, AK Steel's General Manager of Information Resources "This is the Olympics!" The search revealed to both IBM and AK Steel, that there was nothing available in the marketplace that was as comprehensive as the home-grown system that was already running two other steel plants in Middletown, Ohio and Ashland, Kentucky.

AK Steel's sophisticated system is large. It consists of over 8,000 programs and 1,000 files. The system was originally engineered on Prime INFORMATION, then converted, to VMARK's UniVerse RDBMS. The challenge for AK Steel, IBM and Oracle Corporation was to get this home-grown system converted, tested and running with Oracle RDBMS by the January 1998 launch date. Re-engineering was estimated to require several hundred man years. If IBM, Oracle and AK Steel were to meet the launch date, re-engineering was out of the question.

In mid 1997, AK Steel made the decision to go with MVON Oracle. By November 1997, most of the set-up of the system on Oracle was complete and they were on-schedule to go live in early 1998.

MVON Oracle gives AK Steel and IBM Global Services the ability to use the skills and the applications they acquired over the years with their MultiValue system--and to operate directly on the Oracle RDBMS. It also provided the utilities to create Oracle tables from their UniVerse files and dictionaries and to allow them to automatically port their data.

AK Steel sees that a combination of the powerful MultiValue environment with Oracle, the world's leading database for mission critical corporate applications, is an ideal combination. And it saved them hundreds of man years effort.

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