Enabling Growth and Expansion at Aleris

Video Transcript

Aleris is teaming with Accenture to implement and upgrade its Oracle systems.

The project is helping Aleris to meet its major expansion goals on time and on budget.

Steve Faas, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Aleris

Recently we decided to do a major expansion in China to provide our ability to support the aerospace industry in China. With that, we’ve built a one million square foot factory and we needed to put in ERP, MES and HRS type systems in place there, and Accenture’s been the lead for helping us to do that. In China, Accenture helped us as the implementation lead for our Oracle R12 implementation and was instrumental in building all the objects associated with that, and then now supporting them offshore through the AO team there. We had about a dozen people from Accenture on board, a few independent consultants, and made out a plan that took about a year to execute. Simultaneous with that, we also did an upgrade of our R11 environment in North America, which was a 26 site implementation that went live in November, and, again, Accenture was the lead for that, as well, and we’re now supporting that, all 27 sites, offshore through the AO model, as well.

We went live in China on time and on budget, which was a major, major accomplishment. And then secondly, we went live in North America. Our business is thrilled with the results. We’ve had successful closes, we’ve had no
major issues.

We really were effective in teaming with Oracle and Accenture, and particularly in the OPM space in China where we had some critical application requests that needed to be filled in a very timely fashion so we could go live, and Accenture was very helpful in working with Oracle to get that all tied up and help us to achieve our go live.

We looked at all of the major players, and one of the things that really stood out why Accenture was your rigorous methodology.

Accenture coming in with that methodology was really critical to us, particularly around cutover and deployment where we’re not as mature as maybe we should be, and having them lead us through that was extremely helpful.

the most unique thing was really around the cutover and deployment and how we executed a very, very extensive dress rehearsal that through that process gave us the confidence in going live. I’ve done many, many ERP deployments in my past, but we’d never done that rigorous of a dress rehearsal it really helped the business, particularly the finance organization, to have the confidence in both the data as well as our closing processes to effectively go live.

I’d recommend Accenture, and I have, to some of my colleagues and peers, particularly if you’ve got a global deployment, a rigorous complex deployment where you need this kind of horsepower that Accenture can bring to it.

Our thanks to:
Steve Faas, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Aleris