

The Shaw Group Inc. Speeds Decision Making with Rapid Access to Real-time Information



The Shaw Group Inc.
Baton Rouge, LA
www.shawgrp.com

Industry:
Professional Services

Annual Revenue:
\$3.3 billion

Employees:
22,000

Oracle Partner:



The GL Company
Englewood, CO
www.theGLCompany.com

“JD Edwards World applications and The GL Company’s Really Real Time Inquiry Suite are vital tools in helping us deliver on our IT mission of adding value to the business by enabling easy access to the right information at the right time, anywhere in the world.” — G. Patrick Thompson, Jr., Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Information Officer, The Shaw Group Inc.

Founded in 1987 in Baton Rouge, La., The Shaw Group Inc. has grown into a diverse engineering, construction, fabrication, environmental, and industrial services organization with 22,000 employees in strategic locations worldwide. A number of large acquisitions in recent years catapulted The Shaw Group to revenues of more than \$3 billion.

With 288 companies and hundreds of offices and project sites around the world, The Shaw Group saw a need to streamline and integrate its inter-company business and provide its employees with holistic project views. The company decided to consolidate its seven information systems into one, standardizing on JD Edwards World. The Shaw Group also implemented The GL Company’s Really Real Time Inquiry Suite to enable its employees to build, publish, and report on all critical information in the JD Edwards relational database.

Organization Efficiency and Cost Savings

The cross-enterprise consolidation on JD Edwards World at The Shaw Group has reduced back-office general and administrative (G&A) expenses as well as IT costs.

“We’ve consolidated five IT data centers into one and gone from four back-office corporate centers to one. At the same time, our G&A stayed fairly flat as our revenues grew significantly. We also dropped IT costs by about 50% in the first two years, and we have been refining it ever since,” said G. Patrick Thompson, Jr., senior vice president of Administration and Chief Information Officer for The Shaw Group.

Oracle Products & Services:

JD Edwards World
 Financial Management
 Accounts Payable
 Accounts Receivable
 Contract Billing
 Human Resource Management
 U.S. Payroll
 Plant and Equipment
 Maintenance Management
 Fixed Assets
 Inventory Management
 Subcontract Management
 Sales Order Management
 Procurement Management
 Project Costing

Key Benefits:

- Integrates information across all business units of 288 companies for rapid access, analysis, and reporting
- Simplifies Sarbanes-Oxley compliance
- Reduces general and administrative (G&A) expenses
- Provides access to reliable, real-time information in the field as well as the back office
- Reduced IT costs by approximately 65%
- Enabled consolidation of four back-office corporate centers into one
- Allowed IT consolidation from five data centers to one

“With Oracle’s JD Edwards World and the Inquiry Suite, we have enhanced efficiency, productivity, visibility, and simplicity for our business, and increased the integrity of information at both the project and the back-office financial levels,” Thompson said.

Real-time Data in the Field and Back Office

After a few years of success with JD Edwards World applications, The Shaw Group decided to extend the value of its JD Edwards solution with The GL Company’s Inquiry Suite.

With the Inquiry Suite, Shaw employees can quickly get information from the JD Edwards system and display it without assistance from the IT team—improving productivity across the organization, according Thompson.

Thompson emphasizes that, while the JD Edwards World database had all the elements that The Shaw Group needed, the Inquiry Suite has extended the life and efficiency of that data source.

“Our employees can quickly extract the JD Edwards information they need with the Inquiry Suite and spin it off in Excel or as a PDF, or whatever format they need. Rather than waiting for a data warehouse to load our end-of-month financial reports, everyone at The Shaw Group has ‘flash’ reporting capabilities on an ongoing basis,” Thompson said.

The Shaw Group can now publish key management information out to the enterprise. Management teams can see project and business unit profit and loss (P&L) data in real time and on demand, allowing them to easily check details on costs, budgets, and variances.

“Using linked reporting, our employees can drill from a formatted balance sheet to the P&L and then down to a journal entry in just a few mouse clicks. Paper reports, which had taken hours to run, are now online inquiries that take only minutes,” Thompson said.

Streamlined Compliance

Standardizing on JD Edwards World has enabled The Shaw Group to streamline compliance with a growing number of regulations, include Sarbanes-Oxley regulations.

“JD Edwards World addresses our business needs in engineering construction, and environmental infrastructure—and helps us to manage compliance with the regulations related to these industries,” Thompson said. “JD Edwards is also certified by the Defense Contract Administration Agency—the DCAA—to help us meet related governmental requirements.”

Why Oracle?

JD Edwards World provides the integrated, real-time information needed to help The Shaw Group make effective business decisions across its many business units, according to Thompson.

“The faster our teams in the field and in the back office can access that data, the smarter and more competitive we become as an organization. With as many as 30,000 projects open at a given time, JD Edwards World and The Inquiry Suite help our employees get exactly the information they need in an instant,” Thompson said.

Why The GL Company?

The Shaw Group chose The GL Company’s Inquiry Suite—including General Ledger, Job Cost, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Fixed Assets, Tax and Executive Console—to extend the value of its JD Edwards solution. The Inquiry Suite provides an efficient way for employees to get JD Edwards World data out and display it without calling for IT team support.

The Inquiry Suite integrates information across every business unit of Shaw’s 288 companies for rapid access, analysis, and reporting.

“Tapping into the rich transactional base of JD Edwards data and giving that to our employees in real time continues to be absolutely critical for our business,” Thompson said. “The GL Company has been very responsive in terms of developing new features and forming an alliance with us to make the Inquiry Suite even better.”

“At the end of the day, it’s all about the output that we need to run our business, and we’re working with the GL Company on enhancements to expand these capabilities and further extend the life of our JD Edwards World asset,” Thompson said.

Implementation Process

After the strategic decision to get all of its companies on a single platform, The Shaw Group had its JD Edwards World software up and running across the organization in approximately 12 months.

“JD Edwards World is a very high-powered, scalable, and integrated transactional-based system. It brings enormous business value to The Shaw Group,” Thompson said.

The Shaw Group installed the Inquiry Suite in just a few hours, and the rollout to thousands of users took only a few days.

“For performance and functionality combined with ease of use, The GL Company’s Inquiry Suite is far superior to other toolsets, and the installation was very painless,” Thompson said. “We used a software management system to push the client piece to the desktop, where it has a very small footprint.”

The Shaw Group conducted a Webinar to train employees on the Inquiry Suite. “The product is so intuitive, that we required very little training,” Thompson said.

The Shaw Group Inc. is a leading global provider of technology, engineering, procurement, construction, maintenance, fabrication, manufacturing, consulting, remediation, and facilities management services for government and private sector clients in the energy, chemical, environmental, infrastructure, and emergency response markets.