



Elgin National Industries, Inc.

by Jim Marofske

Establishing a common technology platform for 35 subsidiaries improves timeliness of reporting, efficiency, and much more.

Elgin National Industries, Inc.

Elgin National Industries, Inc., owns subsidiary companies that are worldwide leaders in the innovative design, engineering, procurement, and construction of bulk material handling and processing systems and in the design and manufacturing of industrial equipment and specialty fasteners.

A platform for growth and competitiveness.

Elgin National's subsidiaries primarily serve the utilities and energy industry, which is undergoing rapid and significant change. To maintain its reputation within the industry and its competitiveness with other service providers and manufacturers, the company recognized that it would need to change the way it manages IT systems and infrastructure across its subsidiaries.

Elgin National's subsidiaries maintained their own IT environments, with no facilitated information sharing among them. The company found it difficult to consolidate reporting and costly to maintain disparate systems.

To address these issues and facilitate future growth and acquisitions, Elgin National sought to establish a standardized technology platform across subsidiaries—one that would provide stable, global, and highly available messaging and authorization services for all subsidiaries. In addition, it wanted to establish centralized information sharing, collaboration, and reporting capabilities.

For assistance, Elgin National turned to West Monroe Partners. West Monroe Partners offered breadth of expertise in key disciplines, including SharePoint, business intelligence, system consolidation and migration, and virtualization skills.

Leadership throughout implementation.

West Monroe Partners worked with Elgin National's management team through all aspects of design, development, and implementation—collaborating to implement an enterprise-class IT solution that provided failover/disaster recovery capabilities and the flexibility to handle the company's anticipated growth and changes.

Working closely with client personnel, West Monroe Partners led and managed implementation of all elements of the solution, including:

- ◆ Microsoft Office SharePoint Server that enables consolidated viewing of financial reports, as well as project team collaboration
- ◆ Microsoft Exchange 2007 that provides e-mail for all employees on a standard platform
- ◆ Active Directory that enables other technical solutions
- ◆ Business intelligence capabilities that enable consolidated executive financial management reporting across Elgin National's subsidiaries

Significant increases in accuracy and efficiency.

By shifting from manual consolidation of data from 35 companies to automated processes, Elgin National Industries has realized significant increases in General Ledger reporting accuracy and efficiency. In addition, the company reduced its month-end close from a five-person, one-week effort to a two-person, two-day work effort.

In addition, establishing a consistent technology platform across its subsidiaries has helped improve the efficiency with which Elgin National delivers engineering services projects and manufactured components.