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A UNIFIED APPLICATIONS PLATFORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

KEY BENEFITS

- Centrally manage environmental data
- Ensure environmental sustainability data reliability and consistency
- Leverage operational business intelligence to optimize environmental sustainability
- Reduce cost of generating reports for regulatory bodies, customers, and other key stakeholders
- Reduce risk by actively managing and enforcing environmental management policies
- Ensure remediation of out of compliance events
- Minimize compliance related costs
- Reduce operational waste and associated costs
- Reduce production resource consumption
- Innovate products by designing for the environment using closed-loop product lifecycle management
- Reduce energy usage and costs through transportation and logistics optimization
- Build brand equity

As the world continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, the impact on the environment has become increasingly evident and of growing concern for governments, corporations, and the general public. In response, sustainability has come to the forefront of corporate business drivers, where it is increasingly seen as both benefiting the environment and benefiting the overall performance of an organization. Supporting this requires capabilities to measure, analyze, manage, improve and innovate across a broad range of sustainability metrics and processes. To help facilitate this, Oracle is partnering with ESS – the market-leading provider of Environmental, Health, Safety (EH&S) software – to provide a cohesive environmental sustainability solution.

An Urgent and Growing Need

Unprecedented growth in environmental regulatory directives and impending legislation has made it critical for organizations to address how they manage their compliance initiatives in order to better manage associated business risks. Corporations are also realizing that global developments around environmental sustainability offer a strategic opportunity to go beyond compliance by driving cost reductions in the supply chain and converting revenue growth opportunities in the market place. In order to generate such an ‘eco-advantage’ organizations need the ability to collect and aggregate key environmental metrics across their enterprise, setting targets and actively managing their progress.

Corporations need to evolve to a unified business applications platform spanning their entire enterprise to address these growing market pressures – and harness their opportunities – by making environmental sustainability an intrinsic part of their core business model and day-to-day operations. The foundation for an environmental sustainability management solution consists of three primary components – data acquisition, compliance management, and reporting – working in conjunction with existing and enhanced capabilities within enterprise applications, as illustrated in Figure 1. In order to address the growing complexity around environmental data collection Oracle is partnering with ESS, the world’s premier provider of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) software.



Figure 1. A Unified Platform for Environmental Sustainability

Data Acquisition and the Eco-Hub

Businesses must begin aggregating relevant environmental data from across their enterprises. A standardized, streamlined process needs to be in place to ensure that consistent, reliable data is fed into business intelligence dashboards and sustainability reports. ESS has extensive experience in collecting the full spectrum of EH&S information from across a business unit, a facility or a global enterprise. For example ESS routinely collects air, water, waste, and other environmental metrics – via forms as well as directly from real-time sensors – in a robust, proven data model that serves as an ‘eco-hub’ to centrally manage and house the relevant environmental data. In many cases complex calculations also need to be performed to provide the data in the required format for analysis and permitting purposes.

Ensuring Environmental Compliance

Rapidly growing regulatory directives need to be included in every company’s management of its overall Governance, Risk, and Compliance program. Whether it’s adhering to ISO14001 processes or managing product stewardship legislation such as Reduction of Hazardous Materials (RoHS), robust policies and procedures must be in place to maximize compliance, efficiently handle non-compliance events, and report to the relevant authorities in a consistent and timely manner.

Oracle’s Governance, Risk, and Compliance Manager offers robust capabilities to manage risk and compliance programs across regulations and around the globe. Incorporating environmental compliance on a common platform with other regulatory requirements such as financial compliance and IT governance improves consistency and reduces compliance costs. In order to facilitate the implementation of environmental compliance regulations Oracle will be delivering pre-built templates to support the ISO 14001 standards as a potential starting point for implementing environmental management systems.

Operational Business Intelligence and Reporting

The adage of not being able to improve what you cannot measure has never been more relevant.

Environmental sustainability goals are unwieldy and overwhelming for corporations if key relevant metrics – ranging from energy usage to greenhouse gas information – are not identified and monitored on an ongoing basis.

Leveraging the widely adopted Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and ESS' data model, the Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition Plus platform provides a full range of analysis and reporting capabilities that enable customers to rapidly establish the operational data views necessary to identify issues and opportunities when looking to generate an eco-advantage in the marketplace. In turn, these metrics can be embedded into existing dashboards and combined with more traditional measures so that they become an intrinsic part of business decision making and operations.

At the corporate level Oracle's Enterprise Performance Management offering provides a sustainability reporting solution to report on non-financial data in addition to traditional financial data, an increasingly common practice to protect and enhance brand equity.

Leveraging Enterprise Applications To Create an Eco-Advantage

Sustainability needs to be a core and integral feature in business decision making and operations in order to leverage the opportunity to 'turn green to gold'. In this light, enterprise applications will also play a key role as a core enabler of business operations. Opportunities for organizations to make their products and business process 'greener' range from the use of optimization tools to the reduction of paper consumption. The ability to reduce environmental impacts while driving financial gains will vary by industry and region, but can include:

- Optimizing supply networks for production cost, time, as well as environmental cost and risks using strategic network optimization tools
- Reducing manufacturing costs and environmental impacts by applying lean manufacturing principles to environmentally sensitive components and production operations
- Reducing transportation costs while also reducing emissions using transportation management tools
- Reducing energy costs and extending the life of assets by managing them more efficiently using enterprise asset management and intelligent device monitoring
- Reducing the use of paper in day-to-day business processes reducing not only paper consumption but also all the related handling costs

Together, Oracle and ESS are committed to helping organizations to manage, execute, and measure their environmental sustainability initiatives.

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