

JATCO Drives Global Growth with a Single Enterprise Information Portal



Japanese Automatic Transmission
Company (JATCO)
Shizuoka, Japan
www.jatco.co.jp

Industry:

Automotive

Annual Revenue:

US\$4.9 billion

Employees:

7,265

Oracle Products & Services:

Oracle WebCenter Suite

“Oracle WebCenter Interaction ensures our enterprise information portal operates smoothly. We believe the enhanced speed and accuracy of data research will lead to improved business performance.” – Takahiro Yamanaka, Information Systems Department, Japanese Automatic Transmission Company (JATCO)

Throughout the 1990s, Japanese Automatic Transmission Company (JATCO), a manufacturer of automobile gearboxes, transformed its global practices with several major business mergers. JATCO formed a new company, combining two major global automobile corporations: Transit Technology Company Ltd., a subsidiary of the AT-CVT (Automatic Transmission – Continuously Variable Transmission) department of Nissan Automobile; and Diamond Magic Company Ltd., the AT-CVT department of Mitsubishi Automobile Industrial.

The merger enabled JATCO to retain diverse skill sets and expertise from these two automobile manufacturers while improving its own competitiveness.

As a growing number of companies were falling under JATCO’s purview, the parent organization needed to re-evaluate its IT systems to ensure that all employees and managers had a unified means of communicating with each other as well as their customers.

JATCO was also planning to expand to overseas markets and had established a number of group companies around the world working under its umbrella, but its IT development was still solely focused on the local market.

To drive business expansion, JATCO needed to upgrade its IT environment to handle a global system. Furthermore, an existing Lotus Notes system could not handle the organization’s growing number of document files and the increasing size of the company’s database.

Key Benefits:

- Improved ability to deliver news and information to employees around the world
- Provided a consistent, easy-to-use interface
- Accelerated research capabilities and improved data consistency
- Supported the company's global expansion

To solve this problem, JATCO decided to implement an enterprise information portal (EIP) built on Oracle WebCenter Interaction, which is part of Oracle WebCenter Suite and a portal platform that provides users with easy access to reliable, consistent information.

JATCO transferred its data from Lotus Notes to the new EIP system without any disruption to its technology infrastructure. JATCO staff and management now use a single portal to access company information from anywhere in the world.

Information Delivered Fast

This new system allows for faster transfer of information and provides a single, unified front end for the global JATCO companies.

“The new EIP system allows business users to manage and work together on all types of documents using a simple Web-based interface,” said Naotake Sato, manager, Information Systems Department, JATCO.

The portal provides corporate news, such as messages from management and news from each department, to JATCO staff worldwide regardless of the network domain. This is due to Oracle WebCenter Interaction's ability to verify user domains.

All staff views the same screen, but management has full access rights to all parts of the site.

Takahiro Yamanaka, Information Systems Department, JATCO said, “Oracle WebCenter Interaction ensures that our EIP operates smoothly. We believe the enhanced speed and accuracy of data research will lead to improved business performance.”

The portal service can support different groups, enabling more than 8,000 staff to share information. It plays an important role in the company's global corporate strategy.

Why Oracle?

After deciding to implement EIP, JATCO started the process of finding the best-fit technology in the market and a vendor to meet all the company's needs.

During the evaluation stage, the company looked for a solution that would ensure the process of removing and transferring data from Lotus Notes to the new system ran smoothly.

“Ultimately, we needed an information-sharing system that worked well across all our subsidiaries, and Oracle WebCenter Interaction was the best solution to meet this need,” said Sato.

Implementation Process

Initially, JATCO built a portal based on Lotus Notes. While this process improved information sharing, it did not meet JATCO’s requirements to provide all companies in the group with access through one unified portal while the company rapidly expanded its business to overseas markets.

It was difficult to generate a standardized environment for use by all the group’s companies worldwide, and there was concern about huge costs associated with expanding the existing system.

Therefore, JATCO’s information systems department decided to implement a Web-based EIP that would also solve the problem of a rapidly expanding Lotus Notes database.

“An EIP was the logical alternative,” said Sato. “We needed technical skills that strengthened the information-sharing environment, and enabled us to keep the user-friendly nature of Lotus Notes.”

In June 2005, JATCO evaluated several portal technology solutions before selecting Oracle WebCenter Interaction in December. The project commenced in July 2006.

Transactions ran continuously, reducing the amount of tasks carried out on the old system, until the migration from Lotus Notes was complete in March 2007.

The portal, dubbed “e-SPAcE2”, runs on 12 servers. Three Web servers are used for front-end processing, eight for back-end distribution, and one for backup of the mission-critical system.

The creation of e-SPAcE2, based on Oracle WebCenter Interaction, became a priority for establishing a new system of information sharing at JATCO.

Japanese Automatic Transmission Company (JATCO) is a global automobile gearbox supplier based in Shizuoka, Japan. The company supplies automotive parts to brands such as Nissan, Mitsubishi, Renault, Ford, and Hyundai.