



EHS-MIS Software Trends



Recently, E2 ManageTech, Inc. (E2) hosted a no-cost webinar outlining our observations related to recent trends in the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

Management Information System (MIS) software industry. The highlights are discussed below.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EHS MIS SOFTWARE TRENDS

Historically, the majority of EHS MIS applications (beyond laborious manual entry spreadsheet utilization) were in-house, custom developed point solutions typically deployed using client/server technology. Most of these solutions have become antiquated or obsolete. In today's market, companies are typically moving towards web-based COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) solutions with integrated, modular functionality. These solutions are increasingly being deployed from a business enterprise basis, demanding strong key performance indicators (KPI) metric roll-up functionality generated from underlying point EHS MIS process. Typical functionality in these solutions includes the ability to facilitate actions or tasking from multiple EHS business processes.

From an end user standpoint, historical solutions were primarily designed for data logging purposes, targeting the engineer or scientific professional. This type of solution handled data from environmental air and

water sampling, hazardous waste generation and EHS incident data. As a result, the user interface featured more of a "calculation engine" feel and lacked an intuitive nature for the less sophisticated end user.

Today's COTS solutions have made large strides by building in more user-friendly features such as workflow functionality and streamlined, intuitive user interface. These new solutions have a stronger ability to manage the business process and support data retention equally.

Reporting has also changed. The days of lagging indicators are gone; historically, indicators could be as much as six months out dated. Engineer-based statistics and calculations used to support regulatory and internal reports have been augmented by KPI/metrics presented in an organizational hierarchy. The move towards leading indicators allows for a proactive EHS management. Further, intuitive dashboards are common place.

What is driving these changes? There are many factors driving the change in this industry; the first and most important is the audience. EHS related information has become part of the everyday business function and as a result the audience requirements have changed. Requirements have shifted to user-friendly, intuitive interface and reporting capabilities. Oftentimes, the configurability of the software is more important than the functionality; the software vendor and their particular road map can be more influential in the final choice than the functionality of the software.

WHAT TRENDS ARE DRIVING THE NEED FOR EHS MIS?

From a historical perspective, the dominant drivers in the 1990's were primarily environmental in nature, compliance or Title V driven, and focused on a local level. The justifications for the costs of these solutions during the 90's were relatively simple: reduce collection man- hours, analysis and reporting and ensure compliance. In the 2000's the drivers began to shift. The move towards safety and less complex environmental processes was fueled by the need to manage information across the business enterprise and include the associated increased return on investment. Companies were interested and focused on reducing their corporate risk; the less tangible benefits became the corporate belief. This shift was accompanied by a push towards business process standardization across the enterprise. In the new decade, sustainability, climate change, and the

“Triple Bottom Line” have taken center stage. The “Green” and responsible image of the company has driven much of the cost justification for EHS MIS. The increase in “C-level” exposure and an increase in external stakeholder demand significantly increases the business case for EHS MIS solutions.

After discussing how the EHS MIS software has changed, the related associated drivers and cost justifications, the next step is to understand the implementation and support trends surrounding the new software. Primarily, there is an increase in projects with a global scope. With this global scope, the need for product localization has increased tremendously due to the fact that company requirements span time zones and numerous languages. With this expansion, the need for creative training and rollout strategies has dramatically increased. As projects become global and system users diversify, the support plan complexity grows.

Task Summary Grid

Model: All Models

Template: All Actions Items

From: To:

Status	Number of Tasks
Overdue	104
Pending	0
Completed	30

Report Summary

Container: All Containers

Template: All Templates

From: To:

Title	Container	Completed	Responsible
14_ActionDetail090320	Generated Reports	3/20/2009	support
Mobile_ActionDetail	Generated Reports	3/20/2009	support
GulfCoast_Action Detail090320	Generated Reports	3/20/2009	support
ComplianceV6 Permit Requirement (non-air)_03/25/2009 09:41:26	Generated Reports	3/25/2009	mdmorris
Compliance Report_032509	Generated Reports	3/25/2009	saadkins

