

Neilson Active Holidays implement Inside XL for interactive financial reporting.

"If you know Excel, you can use Inside XL. You'll never need to retype another number into Excel again.

All of us in the finance team use Inside XL every day."

"Inside XL is now a crucial part of how we run and plan our business on a daily basis."

The Company

Established in 1978, Neilson Active Holidays was founded on the idea of giving active people more of what they love while they're away. Neilson provides beach, ski and sailing holidays in Europe which are inclusive, active and fun.



The Challenge

Neilson were not satisfied with the existing reporting from their ERP accounting system. The accounting system was complex and held data against nine different dimensions. The company needed to report, slice and drill data across all nine dimensions, like product lines, countries and resorts. The ERP accounting system simply could not produce the reports and interactivity that was required.

Extracting data from their ERP meant that it was time consuming and Neilson had issues presenting these effectively in excel. In addition, inputting and manually manipulating financial information in Excel made them open to human error.

The reporting solution required by Neilson needed to cater for management, statutory, overhead cost and operational information. There was also a requirement to report on data from the reservation booking system, so that both financial and non-financial operation data could be combined in one report.

The Selection Process

Because the finance team at Neilson were all proficient Microsoft Excel users, a key requirement was that the new reporting solution had to be accessible in Microsoft Excel. This meant that reports could be written, developed and run by non-IT finance staff in an Excel environment.

An important factor for selecting Inside XL was the ability for non-IT finance staff to write a report just once. That report could then be run again and again for any combination of dimensions like month, year, region, product line, etc.

The Result

Iain Seedhouse, Head of Finance at Neilson, is thrilled with the success achieved with the new reporting tool. Inside XL is used daily in the Neilson finance department. It has achieved a 30% resource saving across a team of six finance staff at head office. This saved time is now used to analyze the financial information instead of using the time to prepare it.

"We can have interactive access to data from Sage X3 and produce perfectly formatted reports in Microsoft Excel. Inside XL is very easy to master as the front-end is Microsoft Excel. Users can write and change reports with ease, as they are already familiar with the Microsoft Excel environment."

"Whether Inside XL is used to produce month end packs or ad hoc query and drill down, it is far slicker and more efficient compared to the previous reporting tool. As Inside XL is an add-in to Microsoft Excel this all can be done in a familiar spreadsheet environment."

Data Sources Used

Accounting: Sage X3
Bookings: Atcom
Business Intelligence: Qlik

For more information

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