Oregon Travel Information Council
State Agency Navigates Financial Information with SAP Business One

> *We've been continuously growing. When we started managing rest areas for the Oregon Department of Transportation, we had five... Since then, we keep adding more; we're up to 25.*
>
> *Diane Welter,*
> *Finance Manager, Oregon Travel*

Company Description

Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC) is a semi-independent State of Oregon agency created in the 1970s to operate the highway blue logo sign program following the Highway Beautification Act. It also operates the Oregon Historical Marker and Heritage Tree Programs and a growing number of rest areas.

Name: Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC)

Industry: Government, travel, tourism

The Solution:
SAP Business One,
AppComputing BudgetEngine

Location: Salem, Oregon

Website: www.oregontic.com

Challenges

- Existing accounting solution was unable to support business growth.
- Limited reporting caused inadequate financial visibility.
- Lack of budgeting tool required manual spreadsheets.

Why SAP Business One

- Manages all business aspects through a single, integrated platform.
- Supported by a vast ecosystem of SAP-certified, third-party industry solutions.
- Intuitive solution that adapts to company's way of doing business.

Benefits

- Scalable ERP solution that supports long-term business growth.
- Reduces manual data entry into spreadsheets.
- Total control of finances enables real-time tracking of budgets for cost center managers.

With breathtaking coastlines, monolithic sea stacks, ancient forests, Mount Hood, and cities that are hubs of activity and food culture, Oregon's assets are numerous. Helping travelers find their way is the mission of Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC). These pathfinders love helping motorists en route to Oregon's many landmarks with bright blue signs that connect them to essential services and businesses. TIC manages 25 rest areas around the state, where motorists can relax and refuel – with free coffee, no less. It creates a safer and more comfortable travel experience for visitors.

To light the way to better budgetary reporting, Oregon Travel Information Council chose SAP Business One. With real-time financial reporting, the company can ensure their path to growth intersects with travelers' needs wherever their journeys take them next.

Oregon Travel Information Council's mission is to create an unbeatable visitor experience by providing directions to destinations, connecting travelers with Oregon's many natural wonders and landmarks, and ensuring safe and convenient travel. The bright blue highway signs, a cost-effective tool for local businesses to gain exposure along busy highways, direct travelers to essential services, and nearby attractions. TIC also manages 25 rest areas offering travelers a place to stretch their legs, walk the dog, and let the kids play.

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> **Diane Welter**
> Finance Manager, Oregon Travel Information Council

Overcoming Business Communication Roadblocks

To get the most value from the company's data and support financial decisions, TIC needed to overcome the manual processes creating communication roadblocks.

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TIC used Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and Quickbooks to manage 60 cost centers and over 20 budget owners. This made their budgeting process difficult to manage, and collaboration relied on emailing spreadsheets back and forth.

"I think QuickBooks was okay when TIC had only a few employees," Welter explains. "But now that we're approaching 100 employees and managing 25 rest areas, I think it's beyond the capabilities of QuickBooks."

SAP Business One

SAP Business One: The Signpost of Financial Performance

To stay on the path to growth, Oregon Travel Information Council partnered with global professional IT services consultancy, Vision33. Vision33 introduced TIC to the enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution SAP Business One. The solution offers TIC a single, integrated solution that provides clear visibility into their entire business and control over their operations.

Unlike accounting packages like QuickBooks, SAP Business One integrates with other business functions to deliver the data necessary to manage a business. TIC appreciates the application's flexibility because it seamlessly integrates with an ecosystem of certified applications that provide additional support for a company's unique processes.

The SAP Business One ecosystem includes many innovative and SAP-certified applications that have been proven to integrate smoothly with SAP Business One. To address TIC's budget management needs, Vision33 recommended AppComputing, a cloud-based application that streamlines budgeting and facilitates collaboration.

In the past, rest area managers didn't have direct access to SAP Business One. With AppComputing, however, managers can log in from the field and analyze the financial information of the rest area(s) they supervise.

AppComputing BudgetEngine streamlined budget management for each budget owner, from annual budgeting process, to budget vs. actual reconciliation, from individual budgeting contributor to team collaboration.

Each manager can look at their budget and actuals and drill down for more details. It empowers them to access the information they need to do their job. Additionally, the user access permission controls what each budget owner can see and edit. This empowers team collaboration for all the budget owners to work on the same platform with the same set of integrated data.

"AppComputing has been a saving grace for us. Being able to have every manager put their budgets in and have it all roll together. For that purpose, it's wonderful," says Welter.

The native integration with SAP Business One automates the transfer of accounting data into AppComputing platform, which provides readily accessed transactional data for each budget owner. Each budget owner can now better understand their budget performance without having to ask for more accounting reports.

By putting the budget in the cloud, different teams in the company could collaborate to improve the accuracy of the budget and let everyone view a single source of truth for budget and business data – all while letting management feel assured that user access permission controls only let budget owners see and edit their piece of the overall budget.

> **"** *All the consultants have been terrific," says Welter. "When I think of an idea that could make SAP Business One work better, they're very receptive. They say, 'That's a great idea; we can implement that,' or 'We'll put that down for a future system enhancement.'"*
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> **Diane Welter**
> Finance Manager, Oregon Travel Information Council

Working with Global IT Professional Services partner, Vision33

Embarking on a new path with ERP software can be daunting without the guidance of an experienced implementation partner. More than just an SAP Business One software reseller, Vision33 is a trusted advisor to Oregon Travel Information Council and can identify the best solutions to address their challenges.

Like any memorable journey, the people you meet are an essential part of the experience. TIC believes that people are the core of Vision33's premium service offering – ambassadors of SAP Business One that made the route to better business management more enjoyable.

Going forward, Oregon Travel Information Council is excited to work with Vision33 to find more ways to leverage their investment in SAP Business One.

About AppComputing BudgetEngine

AppComputing, Inc. is located in Sunnyvale, California, the center of the Silicon Valley. Its innovative cloud-based budgeting application, BudgetEngine, provides a complete solution for Corporate Performance Management (CPM). It offers extensive pre-built data modelings, scenario planning, budget vs. actual, what-if analysis, multi-currency, multi-entity consolidation, BI/analytics, and dashboard reporting. BudgetEngine is also certified with native integration with many accounting/ERP applications, including SAP Business One. For more information, visit www.appcomputing.com.

About Vision33, IT Professional Services Partner

Vision33 Inc. is a global IT professional services consultancy that solves customer business challenges through the promise of technology and the value it delivers. They partner with organizations in both the public and private sectors to understand their vision and help them reach it with the right blend of strategy, consulting, and technology. Vision33's global team of results-driven resources provides world-class experience through office locations in North America and Europe. For more information about Vision33, visit www.vision33.com.

Vision33's SAP solutions provide scalable and integrated ERP technology. With Vision33's help, their customers connect their business processes, from finance and expense reporting to procurement and inventory, to transform their operations and manage their subsidiary operations more efficiently. Vision33's dedicated customer support, the world-class TOTAL Care support program, ensures businesses have the tools they need to leverage their technology investment.

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