

Tebodin and Exact

//

With Exact Globe,  
we have been  
able to reduce our  
reporting time by  
20%”

[www.exact-software.co.uk](http://www.exact-software.co.uk)

# FINANCIAL INSIGHT IS OUR PLATFORM FOR EXPANSION



**Tebodin is an international engineering consultancy with 50 branches in 24 countries. The company operates in a wide range of markets and industries, from energy and infrastructure, to healthcare, food production and oil and gas. Worldwide, the business employs nearly 5000 professionals.**

Although Tebodin's roots are in The Hague, they're steadily increasing their international footprint. Thanks to this ongoing – and over the last few years rapid growth, maintaining an effective overview of the complete financial operation was becoming more and more challenging. Sjoerd van Balen, Group Controller: 'Given the large number of international projects we run, continual financial reporting is essential. Management steer the business on the basis of clear KPIs established for every country where we operate. This allows us to react quickly and effectively to any unexpected deviations in performance.' The financial solution that Tebodin used previously didn't support the reviewing of all financial administrations within one system. Van Balen: 'We continually faced a patchwork of international financial data that, more often than not, had to be manually transferred from a local system into the central administration.'

#### **Autonomy**

Given these challenges, the business laid out the requirements for a new administrative system. Van Balen: 'We naturally wanted to get away from the

manual work that was continually required. As much as was possible needed to be automated. We also wanted to be able, as the corporate headquarters, to look at the bookkeeping of the subsidiaries in real-time. Our business philosophy centres around a high degree of autonomy for the local operations, but uniform messaging and operational information is a must. We wanted standard reports, but every location needed to be able to work in their own language and according to the local rules and legislations. In one country a yearend invoice can be included in the revenue from that year, in another it needs to be booked under the following year. That kind of situation needed to be automatically handled by the software.'

#### **No more double entry**

After an intensive search process, Exact Globe was installed on the Tebodin server. Every subsidiary around the world can log into their own part of the global administration system. The rights are protected, with certain high value, core activities only accessible to the relevant financial professionals. The corporate financial department in The Hague has

### OLD SITUATION

Tebodin is a Dutch company with subsidiaries all over the world. As a result of the rapid growth of their offices overseas, it was essential that the headquarters could follow their financial situation in detail. The administrative solution that they previously worked with did not support them in obtaining the local insight they required. Given that the Tebodin directors were heavily dependent on that input, the situation needed to change significantly.

### THE SOLUTION

Exact Globe was set up on the server at the headquarters in the Netherlands. All offices can now log into the same system and run their financial administrations in a central environment. The head office in The Hague now has continual real time insight in the financial situation of every single Tebodin office around the world.



insight into the financial administration of every office worldwide. Certain processes and activities are centrally defined, including HR information like function titles and personnel numbering, while the subsidiaries are free to carry out their day-to-day bookkeeping according to their local accounting principles. 'The local rules are the basis for the financial bookkeeping', tells Van Balen. 'Data is entered into the system locally and standardized by the software. Handy, because if you don't have this, you need effectively to run a double bookkeeping for each country.

#### Modular set up

For a global organization with local specifics, the ERP's modular structure is a major bonus. 'The modular system supports a country-specific set-up very well. In the Middle East, for example, we make use of the automated cheque printing functionality as a local add-on.' For Van Balen, flexibility is an essential

characteristic. 'The starting point for choosing software was and remains our way of working. Where will we find the system that fits with what we want? Our choice was for an environment that allows us easy access to the information that we need. 'The result of this choice for one uniform system worldwide is, among others, that data for management decisions is available faster and delivered in one standardized format. 'This approach certainly offers us a range of benefits, but it's also not the case that people are dancing on the desks every day through sheer joy', says Van Balen. 'There is also local dissatisfaction on occasion; we moved through the organization, each office with its own culture, and installed a new way of working. As such, there are some places where we've experienced resistance. That said, the most important thing is that our IT now fits with our core business philosophy - information standardization with local freedom.'



Tebodin was created in 1945 by Frederik van Iterson, the name a shortening of the original title N.V. Nederlandsch Technisch Bureau voor Ontwikkeling der Industrie. Since April 2012, the business has become a subsidiary of Bilfinger, a large international parent organization based in Germany and the US with a focus on engineering and service. Van Balen: 'Our mother company sends us report requests exploring, for example, how we organize our purchase administration. Thanks to the standardization in our systems, it's very easy to provide the information they require. Being a subsidiary of Bilfinger also means we're well placed to invest in upcoming economies and continue our growth.'

### New locations

Tebodin's growth continues. 'When we want to begin a new project in a new country, we often begin work with employees from a neighbouring country. Once the new office is 'mature' enough, it is then also integrated into the financial system. We then adjust the relevant modules and within two days the new location can run its own bookkeeping. In that respect, you can say that Exact plays a key role in our rapid expansion.'

### BENEFITS

- Every country where Tebodin is active can run their administration in their own language
- The Exact software conforms to all legislative and fiscal requirements in every country where it's used
- Follow every administration worldwide from the headquarters in The Hague
- Faster processes thanks to automation
- Every process and all master data fully integrated
- Financial status of all projects now available at any moment
- Up-to-date management information

### Facts

Organization name	: Tebodin Consultants & Engineers BV
Number of employees	: 4900
Number of Exact users	: 75
Active Exact solutions	: Exact for Finance (Globe)
Segment	: Construction and industry
Focus areas	: Financial, project
Implementation partner	: Explore-it Exact consultants
Implementation time	: 1.5 years
Locations	: 50
Website	: <a href="http://www.tebodin.com">www.tebodin.com</a>