

Leading Wholesale Alcohol Distributor Upgrades to Cloud-Based Technology Stack for Increased Inventory Visibility

North American alcohol beverage distributor leverages enVista's supply chain strategy and technology experience to upgrade its full technology stack with no disruption to its business





THE COMPANY

This project involved one of the largest wholesale premium beverage alcohol distributors. Established in the 1930s, the distributor represents the leading global, national and local wine, spirits and beer producers in the industry – serving tens of thousands of customers in the state of Missouri alone. The distributor currently operates two distribution centers (DC), with a combined total of 435,000 square feet, both servicing the entire state of Missouri.

The distributor is both global and local—selling many of the world’s premium beverage alcohol brands and is the proud distribution partner to locally-owned Missouri wineries, breweries and distilleries.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Prior to this project, the client was operating each of its Missouri DCs via separate instances of Körber’s on-premise, legacy warehouse management system (WMS). In addition to its 17-year-old WMS becoming outdated, the distributor’s Microsoft Dynamics 365 (D365) enterprise resource planning (ERP) software was no longer supported by Microsoft. These factors led the company to seek an upgrade to its entire technology stack. Further, the distributor wanted a shared WMS environment in the Cloud that would allow it to operate its two DCs in the same platform.

The organization’s WMS was integrated to its D365 ERP and other automation solutions. There were two available project options: a complete re-implementation of the WMS or a version upgrade on its current platform. After previous

success with enVista in a Microsoft Dynamics integration project, the alcohol distributor’s leadership knew they could trust the enVista team to help determine which option would be best for the organization and facilitate the subsequent project.

ENVISTA’S SOLUTION

enVista’s team began by completing a detailed assessment, based on time and cost, for each of the project options. Based on the assessment, the distributor decided to move forward with a version upgrade on its existing platform to set the groundwork for a re-implementation in the future. Once the decision was made to do the system upgrade, enVista’s team got to work transitioning both of the distributor’s DCs to a cloud-based, software as a service (SaaS) environment.

enVista determined a four-point remediation strategy to address known issues in the legacy WMS design related to inbound flow, lot tracking, the end-of-day process and integration lag between the WMS and D365. To solve the integration challenges between the WMS and D365, the distributor also leveraged enVista’s D365 team to assess opportunities for improvement on the host side of the integrations.

enVista took a holistic approach to this project, focusing on people, processes and technology. First, enVista implemented a three-phase upgrade and implementation plan to eventually have the distributor on the newest platform and able to leverage new features and



capabilities with Körber's (formerly HighJump) Warehouse Advantage. Then, the team determined what processes would be changing in the distributor's daily DC operations and what those processes would look like leveraging the new technology. Finally, enVista's team collaborated with the organization's employees to provide training on how to complete their regular daily processes in the new user interface (UI). Because warehouse associates were able to maintain their familiar processes in the new UI, the client was able to save significantly on training costs and resources. All of this was done to make the transition to the upgraded system as seamless as possible without any internal or external disruption to the business.

Due to restrictions from COVID-19, enVista's team had to complete a significant amount of this project work remotely. Even without the ability to be on-site, both enVista's and the distributor's teams maintained a high level of collaboration and detail throughout the entire project, ensuring that no detail was missed.

RESULTS

Even amid unforeseen project timeline adjustments, enVista was able to maintain its project commitments, requiring

only five months of dedicated work and ending the project on budget. In addition to successfully upgrading the client's technology stack to the Cloud, enVista was able to facilitate the transition with no disruption to its operations or delay for its customers. As a result of this project, the distributor was able to:

- Increase inventory visibility across distribution centers
- Leverage a common reporting tool, individually and across both distribution centers
- Upgrade its security features for a safer data environment
- Determine the root cause of performance issues and improve system processing time of end-of-day transactions
- Synchronize both distribution centers with a server unification strategy
- Orchestrate business plans and resource assignments to undertake a successful future system reimplementation



Let's have a conversation.®

877-684-7700 or info@envistacorp.com