

University of Melbourne goes live with Oracle Financials

Phase One of the University Systems Project Successfully Completed

Oracle Corporation Australia Pty Limited ("Oracle Australia"), a subsidiary of Oracle Corporation, the world's largest enterprise software company, announced today that the University of Melbourne has gone live with Oracle Financials, marking the successful completion of the first phase of the University Systems Project. The implementation was delivered by a team led by Oracle Consulting, on time and on budget. "Implementations of enterprise solutions in higher education are considered particularly difficult and this is one of the most successful," said John Julian, Director of the University Systems Project. The system, comprising Oracle Financials modules: General Ledger, Receivables, Payables, Purchasing, Cash Management and Inventory went live on 2nd January 2003. The new system, which also incorporates custom built modules including Cash Receipting, Internal Orders and Salary Analysis, replaces most of the University's legacy and shadow systems in these areas. It delivers a universal view of financial data - significantly reducing the associated cost. Now, administrative data will only need to be captured once, at source and shared across all faculties and departments. The University underwent an extensive two-stage tendering process. Oracle was chosen to provide the financial applications, technology and the consulting services. Oracle Consulting took the lead role in the implementation - significantly reducing the risk for the University of Melbourne and ultimately delivering a successful outcome. "We were acutely aware that we needed to find a software vendor and an implementation partner with the necessary capabilities across all areas to make this project a success. The business processes of an academic institution are inherently different to those of a commercial enterprise. The Oracle products were a good fit and the consulting team was sensitive to the dynamics of the organisation and the project," said Julian. "Oracle were responsive to our requests to incorporate selected specialists in the implementation team and our decision to select Oracle Consulting as our implementation partner was thoroughly justified ? they understood our business needs as well as the fundamentals of Oracle's applications and technology. We believe that we have managed to develop a true strategic partnership with Oracle which will continue to help deliver on the remaining elements of the project." Brian Mitchell, managing director, Oracle Australia, points out, "Oracle recognises that, against the backdrop of funding restrictions, an increased focus on commercial opportunities and the diversification of revenue streams, the higher education sector faces significant pressure to deliver superior service to its stakeholders. Globally, Oracle's technology powers a broad range of users in the higher education market and we look forward to channelling this expertise to help the University of Melbourne reach its goals now and in the future." The University is replacing its in-house systems as part of a long term program of strategic improvement and one of the key benefits recognised by the University of Melbourne is that the system will allow senior management within the University to gain access to completely integrated information, allowing far greater management planning capabilities and evaluation. "We are seeing extremely high rates of adoption in the initial stages which is extremely encouraging. The numbers of transactions increased rapidly in the first week to levels equivalent to the legacy system, demonstrating widespread adoption and sustained usage by the users," commented Julian. "The decision to adopt the Oracle Real Application Cluster technology has been totally vindicated by the stability and performance of the system." The implementation has seen over 1,000 users logging on to the application since go-live with an average daily load of 400 users. The successful implementation of Oracle Financials has set the infrastructure baseline for the rest of the University's transformation. The University now has the necessary platform in place to build upon the financial and administrative system as part of the ongoing University Systems Project. -ends-

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