



Client | ColasCanada
Location | Offices throughout Canada
Business | Recognized as a leader in multiple sectors of Canadian construction.

ColasCanada Implements Explorer Software For Transnational View of Its Canadian Operations

Explorer Enables Decentralized Project Control, With Modules That Accommodate Wide Ranging Business Activities

ColasCanada is widely recognized as a leader in multiple sectors of Canadian construction, yet ColasCanada is actually part of the Colas Group, a worldwide leader in transportation infrastructure, construction, and maintenance. Today, the Colas Group is active in the construction and maintenance of road, air, rail and maritime transport infrastructure, as well as urban development and recreational facilities. With 70,000 employees, it annually works on 100,000+ projects on five continents.

ColasCanada had been operating in Canada since the early 1960's, and the company has grown its operations from east to west, mainly through acquisition. Today, ColasCanada operates in six Canadian provinces and territories, and has more than 5,000 employees, across dozens of locations.

With a core business in road construction and maintenance, ColasCanada has found it operates most efficiently when working in a de-centralized manner. Each ColasCanada subsidiary controls and operates its own facilities, which can include asphalt plants, quarries, testing and engineering facilities, and even emulsion plants. The construction projects where ColasCanada is active range widely too; you are just as likely to see ColasCanada engaged in construction, rehabilitation, and road maintenance, as in the construction of highways, airport runways, ports, and industrial and logistics infrastructure. To keep all of these project well-supplied and to manage costs, ColasCanada also manufactures and recycles construction materials through a wide network of quarries, sand and gravel deposits, as well as emulsion, asphalt, and concrete plants for its own use and for third party sales.

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Can you ask for more from a software company than to give you a chance to work better, faster, more-profitably? I think that's what we're all after and we found that in Explorer."

Darren Van Slyke, ColasCanada

Software Keeps Order

With operations across multiple sectors and wide-ranging geographic locations, ColasCanada requires sophisticated workflow and accounting technology. This technology must manage both "local" location-based operations and enable the corporation to obtain and analyze consolidated views of data on a national scale. For that task, ColasCanada implemented a solution from Explorer Software Group. Explorer is a leading provider of construction accounting software, and it delivers both flexibility and power through software that can be installed at the client's location or accessed through a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform.



<http://www.explorer-software.com>
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*Integrated software; **meaningful impact.***



"At ColasCanada, we implemented a wide range of Explorer modules, nearly a dozen in fact," said Darren Van Slyke, Director, Information Services ColasCanada. "Those include the standard modules that many constructions companies run, like Job Costing, Payroll, General Ledger, Purchasing, Estimating, and Inventory. But we also have processes that we have to manage that are highly specialized, and we use Explorer for those activities as well - including Equipment Management, Materials Handling, Highway Maintenance, and Hired Truck. To give you an idea of how versatile Explorer is, we are able to use the combined power of these modules to integrate real-time scale weights from our trucks and automatically designate the aggregate, weight, and customer, while integrating that information into our standard accounting and baseline process management functions. We engage in similar data integration in many other sectors of our business as well, all powered by Explorer."

Accommodating Growth

"ColasCanada has grown mostly through acquisition," Darren Van Slyke explained, "and with each acquisition – which range in annual dollar volume from \$1 million to \$200 million companies – these companies bring with them a wide range of technology. From home-grown systems to more sophisticated packages. Because of our corporate requirements to produce consolidated financial results and the need of our local operations to track and analyze detailed project and accounting data, we made the decision several years ago to migrate every one of our companies to Explorer. This also allows us to distribute powerful software capabilities to each one of our companies. Today, we have approximately 1,000 users across 26 installations."

The benefits that ColasCanada experiences are far-reaching, but the greatest return comes from job costing and equipment costing, which can be done on a "local" basis by individual operations, yet securely checked by managers and executives at any assigned location. "At ColasCanada, we are vertically integrated in the road construction industry. Our profits are the result of our worldwide network of experienced people and the development of industry specific technologies," explains Darren Van Slyke. "We count on Explorer to provide us a completely integrated software package that allows us to focus on our core business not on software. Solutions for activities like AP, invoicing, corporate and cost accounting, payroll, and government regulation compliance are all provided by Explorer. Can you ask for more from a software company than to give you a chance to work better, faster, more-profitably? I think that's what we're all after and we found that in Explorer."



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