



## Aventis Accelerates Drug Development with Informatica PowerCenter®

### FAST FACTS

#### REQUIREMENT

To develop new drugs as soon as possible, with early detection of factors impacting market entry.

#### INFORMATICA SOLUTION

Informatica PowerCenter®

#### BENEFITS

Large-scale deployment:

- Solution has grown from 350 developers using it to more than 850 developers today
- Complete assurance of the extraction processes and the integration of data into the data warehouse and data marts to maximise Aventis' R&D
- Researchers can react faster by providing access to systematically updated information

#### NUTS AND BOLTS

- Data Integration: Informatica PowerCenter®
- Source: Oracle, IBM WebSphere
- Interface: Specific Java development

“In our sector, it is imperative to be the first to obtain competitive advantage and an ROI on our research studies. Adding to this is the growing competition, and one can easily understand that time is represented even more in financial terms. In this harsh environment, Informatica became a valuable ally for daily reporting and thus guarantees our teams the optimum responsiveness and effectiveness.”

— Alain Afios, Head of Data Processing,  
R&D Department and member of the Aventis study group

Aventis is dedicated to the improvement of human health, the prevention and treatment of diseases by research, and the development of drugs and vaccines by innovation in major therapeutic areas. In 2001, Aventis reported earnings of 17.7 billion euros for its strategic activities, with 75,000 employees and nearly 3 billion invested in R&D. Aventis' world headquarters is located in Strasbourg, Germany.

### The Challenge: To Accelerate Decision Making

A key requirement of the project was to accelerate the company's decision-making capability. Before using PowerCenter, the Aventis information system was fed “manually”—the developers in the R&D department were tasked with collecting information from 11 systems, one after the other. They carried out their research across heterogeneous databases, which was a long, tiresome, and expensive process. During the first few months of 2001, the Aventis management team decided to investigate automating the tasks related to the research of new drugs and molecules, in particular to gain invaluable days of development time. Christened CTI (Clinical Trial Information), the project involved a study group tasked with evaluating the possible solutions to standardise information coming from the various Aventis departments. This solution required the ability to transform and standardise the data, then carry out fast clinical reports and metrics within the framework of the development of new drugs. The group initially examined the solutions available in the market of integration tools and knowledge management.

## The Solution

PowerCenter was quickly defined as the tool of choice for Aventis R&D based on its functionality, effectiveness, and compatibility with the existing data-processing resources.

PowerCenter was chosen halfway through 2001 to address two requirements: to extract the data stored in 11 systems around the world and to standardise it.

The objective of the project was to automate the creation and distribution of the reports and metrics produced by researchers' clinical studies. PowerCenter offered a turnkey solution that did not require additional programming work. It also offered richness of functionality as well as connectivity to the source systems that Aventis particularly needed.

The solution was delivered in-house through a quality-assured engineer's implementation, and Aventis began using the PowerCenter prototype at the beginning of 2002. At first, it was used by approximately 350 researchers throughout the world. The platform continues to evolve and grow, and is used today by more than 850 people.

Only a day's delay in the distribution of a report or a metric is equivalent to the loss of 1 million dollars to Aventis, demonstrating the importance of Informatica PowerCenter in enabling the company to make accurate decisions as quickly as possible.

Informatica PowerCenter® makes it possible for Aventis to recover clinical information disseminated through their systems. The integration platform standardises the various naming conventions used by the laboratories for drafting clinical reports and metrics. Content aggregation is then validated by the Aventis R&D data warehouse, while its data mart allows information querying through a Web interface. Via this interface, the decisionmakers have access to the system at any time and any location, resulting in a significant time savings. Rather than trawling through disparate systems, PowerCenter also assists in setting up true cooperation between globally dispersed researchers. Aventis benefits from being able to develop the new drugs coming out from its laboratories more quickly, and to detect the possible problems early that are likely to impact their market entry. In a sector where one day of delay in marketing a drug corresponds to approximately a million dollars of lost earnings, fast responsiveness and access to accurate information are of vital importance.

## The Results

Today the fast data extraction delivered by Informatica PowerCenter makes it possible for Aventis' various researchers to view the performance of a clinical study. The Informatica data integration platform allows systematic access to updated information, an invaluable decision-making aid that contributes to the marketing of drugs in record time, or stops their development in the event of a serious problem, particularly adverse side effects. Marketing of a new drug takes at least 6 to 8 years, and the information about the drug is in the public domain for the 15 years of development time, so market selling time must be as long as possible to maximise profits.

## ABOUT INFORMATICA

Informatica Corporation is a leading provider of enterprise data integration software. Using Informatica products, companies can access, integrate, migrate, and consolidate enterprise data across systems, processes, and people to reduce complexity, ensure consistency, and empower the business. More than 2,200 companies worldwide rely on Informatica for their end-to-end enterprise data integration needs.



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