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SP Apparel Selects ICCG As Infor M3 Partner. Go-Live Accomplished In Under 7 Months

Philadelphia, PA – July 31, 2017 -- Independent Computer Consulting Group (ICCG), a Global Information Technology Solutions Provider for the Enterprise, recently announced the completion of an ERP Go Live for SP Apparel.

SP Apparel has been making sports jerseys since 1999 and has developed a great expertise in the conception of creative designs, pattern making, sublimation printing as well as producing innovative personalized custom team apparel. They sell more than 250,000 jerseys every year, into 27 countries, and for 110 customers including big names such as Nike, CCM, and Reebok.

Well-known in the hockey industry, SP Apparel also provides a wide variety of quality athletic uniforms for soccer, football, baseball, lacrosse and basketball under the brand name of SSP.

What differentiates SP Apparel from other apparel manufacturers in North America is not only their very high quality products, but the ability they have to customize small quantity orders of jerseys to very specific customer needs. It is this scenario that also brings complexity in regards to their ERP.

“Our ERP system is an essential part of our business,” said Steve Berard, Executive Vice President and co-owner. “We had been working on a very efficient and customized system for the last 17 years. But it was out of support and putting our company at risk should any issues come up. While we were not experiencing any problems, there were many changes to our business processes and we felt updating our ERP system to a more technologically modern, functionally rich solution would help our growing business.”

Berard joined the company in June 2016 bringing a strong background in IT and a focus on implementing modern, innovative technology. He wanted to have a new system that not only had all the functionality of the old system but provided room for growth and the ability to expand to quickly meet future needs – like new acquisitions, new factories, or anything regarding ecommerce.

Berard decided to approach this very strategically, realizing this could be an opportunity to not only upgrade the system, but to make changes to improve efficiency and reduce overall costs.

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Berard identified 3 steps needed to manage this important move:

- 1) Creating an RFP and evaluating 5 vendors on their ERP solution, including Microsoft, SAP, Oracle and of course, Infor.
- 2) Short-listing Infor & one other vendor.
- 3) Evaluating total cost of ownership and complexity of implementation for this new ERP system.

“We got responses from all these companies quickly and they all seemed to think it would be an easy implementation – but each time we had the first meeting and discussed the customization – every production project we are doing is custom, not repetitive – we got the same response, ‘this is more complicated than we thought,’ said Berard. “Based on their response, we decided to contact Infor, the company that had owned the Movex system that we had.

Infor referred him to Shiv Kaushik, CEO at ICCG. ICCG is an Infor Gold and Global Alliance Partner focused on supporting Infor M3 with deep experience in the Fashion & Apparel industry. Shiv and the ICCG team traveled to Canada to meet and make a proposal for Infor M3 which was exactly what SP Apparel needed as a product since it represented a continuity of their present system.

“ICCG has a deep knowledge of Infor M3 and in fact has more than 20 years’ experience implementing different versions of M3 over this time period,” said Kaushik. “This made us the absolute right choice as implementation partner for this SP Apparel. They had a defined budget and timeline and working closely with Infor, ICCG managed to meet the budget and schedule expectations. ICCG also made a commitment to help SP Apparel go live before their peak season hit in June 2017 and we kept our promise, by going live on May 29, 2017.”

Changing an ERP system in a manufacturing company is a major conversion and it’s typically very complicated. It can jeopardize your operation making it critical to implement the right solution. Ultimately, Berard chose Infor M3 as the ERP solution and ICCG as his implementation partner.

Implementations of this type can typically take up to 2 years but SP Apparel did not have that amount of time. It had to be live by June 2017 or risk more cost, more time, and ultimately would consume resources dedicated to other projects. ICCG and the fully focused SP Apparel team pulled it off in just under 7 months.

“This was one of the best experiences I’ve had in so many IT projects that I led in my career,” said Berard. “Besides offering me turn-key solutions, ICCG was honest and transparent in communication. ICCG certainly understands the application, provided great support, and most importantly, stuck to their word and delivered on-budget, on-time.”

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“Shiv, was very involved, every step of the way,” said Bala Anantharama, Senior VP for ICCG. “He made a commitment and wanted to leave no stones unturned to deliver what we promised. He is a great strength and asset for ICCG because he is one of few business leaders that understands the application, and takes the time to support a customer. “And most important, he sticks to his word.”

Over the years, SP Apparel has established a proud reputation for the quality of its products produced in Canada using state of the art manufacturing equipment and the latest technology. This reputation results from the constant efforts and dedication displayed by their team. The consulting expertise of ICCG and the implementation of Infor M3 as their new ERP system assures SP Apparel

About SP Apparel

SP Apparel has been making sports uniforms since 1999. We're located in Granby, Quebec, and employ 110 specialized employees who strive to carry out our mission each day: to find innovative approaches to making custom apparel that meets and exceeds customer needs.

Our products are made using state-of-the-art equipment in our plant. Our know-how covers everything from design, manufacturing all uniform parts and shipping worldwide.

We have 25 sales reps in North America and another 17 international reps to answer all your questions. Our customer service team is familiar with all of our products and is available to assist you throughout the process.

Our uniforms are worn by professional teams at the junior, senior, college and Olympic levels—and by the kids who aspire to these teams.

Our goal is to maintain our reputation for quality and constantly strive to improve our service level.

For more information visit www.spapparel.com.

About Independent Computer Consulting Group (ICCG)

Independent Computer Consulting Group (ICCG) is a Global Information Technology Solutions Provider for the Enterprise. Since 1988, ICCG has been providing innovative information technology solutions, always with an eye on the changing market and technological horizon. ICCG offers complete application and IT infrastructure services and support to meet key business needs, and long-time global customers continue to rely on ICCG to satisfy their diverse and growing business needs.

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ICCG is dedicated to helping customers bridge their gap between ERP and SCM technologies and business problems to deliver greater value from their technology investments. ICCG's functional and technology expertise spans Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Supply Chain Management (SCM), Warehouse Management Solutions (WMS) Product Life Cycle Management (PLM), Product Data Management (PDM), Business Intelligence (BI), Business Process Management, and Systems Integration and Migration.

By specializing in five specific industries, ICCG has developed extraordinarily deep industry knowledge and are experts in mapping technology to your industry's needs. Combine with a technology and application expertise, ICCG is uniquely qualified to accelerate the results. ICCG, Inc. is certified as a women's business enterprise through the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the nation's largest third party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the US.

Visit us at: www.ICCG.com

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