



Raman Research Institute Applies Technology to All Functions

Here's a reputed research institute that not only uses the latest technology tools for its research activities, but has also adopted them to streamline its management functions.

Being at the forefront of technology is an important prerequisite for a research institute. Based in Bengaluru, Raman Research Institute is an autonomous institute engaged in research in the domain of basic sciences. The institute's management makes sure that it uses the latest technology for its management functions too.

The story behind its genesis

Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman established Raman Research Institute in 1948. Its research areas include a variety of subjects in basic sciences like astronomy and astrophysics, light and matter physics, soft condensed matter physics and theoretical physics. Its electronics laboratory was set up primarily to design, develop and build the instrumentation required to carry out research in the field of experimental physics and astronomy.

ERP software to reduce manual operations

While the institute uses a lot of technology to facilitate quality research by its students, on the management front as well, the institute uses the relevant IT tools to streamline different operations. Earlier, it used Tally software in the accounting department to keep track of its cash transactions and bank accounts. However, entering data related to TDS and service tax was time consuming because TDS amounts were calculated manually and then entered into the Tally system. The management felt a need to integrate accounts, purchase, stock-keeping and the administrative activities. However, last year, IT Catalyst Software India Pvt Ltd, a Master Tally partner, suggested that the institute switch to Tally.ERP 9 to address

these challenges. "The ERP system reduced the manual operations as most of the work is now computerised," comments P V Subramanya, Accounts Officer, Raman Research Institute.

"IT Catalyst Software implemented the TDS and service tax feature in the ERP system and this not only reduced the time it earlier took for data entry, but also helped us in generating Form 16 -A and ST3 (service tax related) statutory reports," says Subramanya. IT Catalyst Software also pointed out that the cost center feature would help in tracking the expenses and income for a project. "This way, we can trace any expenditure made at any point of time by entering details like the time line or expenditure incurred on the project. It cuts down the cumbersome task of manually looking through ledgers and searching for transactions. Moreover, it is easy to track all cash and bank vouchers as they can be now viewed or printed in chronological order," adds a relieved Subramanya.

Customisations in the ERP system

Raman Research Institute got the Tally.ERP 9 solution customised for its requirements. The customisation cost about ₹ 39,000. Since the ERP system is a subscription-based solution, the institute pays an additional yearly subscription fee of ₹ 8,100. As per government rules, cheque-forwarding memos should not only be in English, but include a Hindi version too. "The cheque forwarding memo is used to generate a payment advice and as a statement for all the vendors. It gives details about the bill value and TDS deducted for the bill. The customised cheque-forwarding memo comes

in a bilingual formatting Hindi as well as English. This feature of the software has made it possible to send the records pertaining to the income and expenditure of the institute to the government, in both languages,” explains Subramanya.

Now, the institute can also access consolidated multi-column bank and cash reports with details like receipts, payments and the bank details of all the desired bank accounts. “This feature was already available in Tally.ERP 9 but it provided details of only two bank accounts,” reveals Sangamesh Yalagi, functional consultant at IT Catalyst Software, so the vendor customised the solution to include more bank accounts. Now, all account details can be viewed on the same page in different columns,” he claims. The auto bank reconciliation statement module was also customised according to the institute’s requirement. This helps to read all the bank dates from an Excel sheet, compare cheque numbers, and post bank dates into the ERP system. This module reduces mistakes and the data entry effort of updating the bank dates in Tally, after the cheque is reconciled.



Y Sangamesh, IT Catalyst

How it helps

Implementing Tally.ERP 9 has proved handy in creating statements that are required on a regular basis, saving employees the trouble of double entry and creating reports manually. Subramanya elaborates, “We are required to provide regular MIS reports and the ERP has reduced the auditing time taken to create department-wise, expenditure-wise, employee-wise and area-wise reports.”

What lies ahead

IT Catalyst Software intends to implement a payroll feature into Tally.ERP 9 in the next phase. The institute also plans to add a regional touch to its invoices. “The cheque forwarding memo has now been made available in Hindi and English. We plan to ask our solutions provider to enable the cheque forwarding memos in regional languages also,” concludes Subramanya.