

# Migration of SampleManager LIMSTM v10.5 to v12.3 for a Mining Company

## CASE STUDY

### PROJECT AT A GLANCE

**Business Sector:**

- Mining

**Informatics Systems**

- SampleManager LIMSTM v12.3

**Service Offering**

- Business Analysis
- Migration
- Upgrade

**Elements:**

- 1 Site
- 1 Testing lab
- 2 Months
- 1 CSols Team Members

More and more companies have adopted laboratory informatics systems to support their operations. The earliest adopters are now finding that their versions of LIMS are going off support. Despite years of relative satisfaction and trouble-free service from their LIMS, these customers are now finding themselves in need of an upgrade. This is the case for one of our clients.

A Canadian mining company wanted their SampleManager LIMSTM 10.5 migrated to the newer version 12.3. The migration was needed as their old system was not supported by Thermo Scientific™ any longer, and if they did not make the upgrade, Thermo would not be able to answer requests for help on their system. In the mining and chemicals industries, there is a choice in whether to maintain an older version or upgrade because there are no regulations that force this action. However, once the point of no return is reached with an older version of a LIMS, any upgrade or change is often

more complex than if the process had been undertaken incrementally at regular intervals.

CSols was recommended for this work by Thermo, and functioned as a subcontractor on this project.

### Objectives and Challenges

The goal of this project was to upgrade the client's existing SampleManager LIMS to a supported platform. If this work had not been performed and the system had crashed, or had some other serious problem(s) arisen, the client would not have been able to count on support from Thermo.

The biggest challenge was converting some of their old functionality that had been customized and bringing it forward into the new system. This included form modifications (mostly VGL forms, but some of the newer ones too).

The client first had to install the latest version of Oracle to enable this upgrade. Any company

contemplating an upgrade from a legacy system to a newer version may encounter these kinds of infrastructure changes. In the client's case, this did not cause serious problems but was just another item that had to be completed prior to the start of data migration.

However, any company in this situation should be aware that upgrades to supporting systems may be needed as part of the LIMS upgrade process, and these should be budgeted for accordingly.

## CSols's Role in the Solution

The CSols consultant took on the roles of both Business Analyst and Developer for this project. Having both roles fulfilled by the same person ensured that the system assessment didn't get lost in translation and that the needed functionality was configured into the new system.

The consultant's deep knowledge of both v10.5 and v12.3 also made the upgrade process more efficient and precise, while preserving the customized functionality the client had built over many years with version 10.5.

Deliverables that the consultant accomplished for the client included the following:

- Migrate static data from SampleManager LIMS 10.5 to 12.3
- Modify the new system structure file to handle all the custom fields and other data from the older system
- Update some new Windows-based forms as well as some old VGL-based forms with fields and functions to replicate customized functionality from the legacy system
  - » To ensure no loss of functionality provided by the new forms, the standard LIMS forms in 12.3 were modified to be able to handle the VGL-based data from the old system
- Test the system and provide hypercare support



## Benefits

- The client is able to do everything on the newer version of SampleManager that they could on the older version, but now with a newer, cleaner interface; additional functionality; and faster processes, thanks to the expert migration and configuration work by the CSols BA/Developer.
- The ability to extend the system a little at a time, should they choose to, without having to make a huge technology jump. This would result in easier transitions and training for the users.
- Support and training on the new functions within SampleManager LIMS 12.3.
- Peace of mind knowing that their new system would be supported by Thermo for years to come.
- On-time and on-budget delivery of the migration project—the CSols consultant was able to complete the migration quickly to keep operations moving smoothly for the client