


Supercharge Power BI
with Planning & Writeback 

THE PROCUREMENT ALLIANCE
BUYIN

BuyIn The Procurement Alliance Cuts Monthly Close Time by 87%, Replacing Excel with Real-time Planning & Writeback in Power BI

Challenge

It's quite a task to drive €20B in procurement accurately and efficiently across millions of price and data points within 5 continents. It becomes demanding to do it with rapidly changing business needs, multiplied by the pandemic. But that is exactly the challenge BuyIn Analysts and Controllers faced each month.

Controllers needed to manage data quality and simultaneously meet tight deadlines for month-end project reporting. The company migrated from Excel to Power BI years ago to streamline and speed up shared analysis and reporting. Since Controllers' monthly updates still required input, and as Power BI is a one-way "consume" interface, Excel was back in service as a data collection and entry tool. Supporting Analysts noted they still had to collect Excel files, many with errant inserted rows or columns. They had to manually upload the data to Power BI's core SQL tables before the consolidated results could be viewed in Power BI.

This process of investigating and updating data, as well as the manual SQL data uploads & updates, continued to take a large amount of Controller's and Analyst's focus. They had less time for more value driven business topics that they wanted.

About

BuyIn is the world's biggest procurement alliance in the telecommunications industry, with an annual spend in scope of more than €20B. Its mission is to deliver strategic procurement services by continuously analyzing millions of data and price points in sourcing activities on 5 continents for 45 operators, including Deutsche Telekom and Orange.

AT A GLANCE

Before

- **20+ spreadsheets** shuttled back and forth
- **5+ days:** Monthly Procurement performance reporting close
- **12+ hours:** Devoted to monthly procurement reporting

After

- **0 spreadsheets** exchanged
- **<2 days:** Monthly Procurement performance reporting close
- **<3 hours** devoted to monthly procurement reporting
- **2 additional use cases** for other Finance teams

“Write-back from Power ON allowed us to remove most of the frustrations and delays for our Controllers and project managers in charge of ensuring quality reporting.”

*- Diana Álvaro-Villanueva,
Junior Project Manager Finance.*

“We now confidently present timely, accurate reports to senior executives with much less effort, using a tool inside Power BI. In our fast-paced and complex industry, this level of efficiency helps strengthen the position of our Alliance as telco frontrunner.”

*- Carolina Deutschbein,
BI Manager – Controller.*

Solution

A team of BuyIn business analysts sought a way to leverage their existing Business Intelligence platform, Power BI.

BuyIn streamlined the distribution and collection of the latest procurement details, across all Controllers, by choosing to add “write-back” to Power BI with Visual Planning from Power ON. With this solution, the Controllers enter the latest information directly into Power BI without searching for the latest spreadsheets. Analysts and Controllers see the data update as it writes-back to the transaction system of record in real-time. In mere minutes, the Controllers now complete investigation and data validation work directly inside Power BI using Visual Planner.

By adding the Power ON solutions to Power BI, BuyIn optimized their Controllers’ ability to share, collect, audit, and maintain data quality across their entire monthly forecast process.

Results

With Power ON Visual Planner, Controllers reduced their reporting production time from 5+ days to <2 days (in reality it’s a few hours, however a business process requires a contingency time of two days). Adding write-back to Power BI the Controllers were able to eliminate nearly all the manual, error-prone pain points, which they used to have with standard Excel project analysis and data validation.

Using Visual Planner for Power BI, BuyIn Controllers achieved their objective to increase the speed of producing their reporting without sacrificing data quality standards.

With Power ON the BuyIn Analyst team extracted more value and data accessibility, turning Power BI into an analyze + write-back, two-way street business application; and in doing so they are able to continue delivering on their mission of adding value for shareholders and customers. Thanks to this solution, Controllers have now time freed up from low value standard tasks and are able to focus on more value-added business topics.

Fast Global Procurement report

Procurement performance reporting performed in under 2 days

Extended Planning & Analysis

Write-back inside Power BI opened new forecasting and performance possibilities org wide.

Real-time Budget Entry

Collect real-time budget and reforecast entries from several budget owners.

Schedule your free 1:1 demo today.

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Power  N

Streamline Data Collection and Audit Routines for Automated, Accurate Writeback in Power BI

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