

Brookside Flavors includes NexTec and Sage X3 as key ingredients in its growth and success

Brookside Flavors & Ingredients

Industry

Food Manufacturing

Locations

Branchburg, NJ
Addison, IL

System

Sage X3

Challenge

With rapid acquisition and expansion plans, Brookside needed a process manufacturing ERP solution that could unite multiple operations and scale to meet growth projections.

Solution

The company chose Sage X3 and NexTec Group as key ingredients in its success.

Results

- Single, robust solution provides visibility and functionality across multiple locations and departments
- Previously manual processes have been automated, saving time and money
- A skilled and well-planned implementation ensured the company achieved its goals, while keeping the project on time and on budget

Brookside Flavors & Ingredients is a company with exceptional taste — manufacturing sweet and savory ingredient blends and enhancers utilized by some of the biggest names in the food industry. Brookside is an industry leader using natural, organic and non-GMO flavors and ingredients. Its commitment to excellence extends to its supply chain — a stringent supplier approval process ensures all raw materials are sustainably sourced and traceable.

As the company grew both organically and through strategic acquisitions, it became increasingly important for Brookside to implement a centralized, scalable and powerful process manufacturing and financial management solution. Its choice: Sage X3 implemented and supported by the expert team at NexTec Group.

“NexTec brings an abundance of expertise and knowledge of best business practices to our projects that is helping us get the most from Sage X3 and preparing us for our continuing growth and success.”

Dean Karkazis, Director of Operational Analytics

Uniting operations on a common platform

Following an acquisition in 2017, a new ERP solution was Brookside's first major initiative. “Each division was using its own collection of systems and nothing was integrated,” recalls Dean Karkazis, Director of Operational Analytics and Strategic Initiatives for Brookside. “We didn't have the necessary visibility and control across the enterprise. We needed a unified platform that could help us continue to grow the business and Sage X3 is that unifying solution.”

He continues, “Sage X3 provides consistency and visibility across all aspects of the business, from finance to inventory management to manufacturing and quality control.”



Success Story: Brookside Flavors & Ingredients



Recipe for success

NexTec follows an implementation methodology that Karkazis says was a crucial element in the overall success of the project. “We began with a blueprinting phase, taking a critical look at our current business and our requirements going forward. NexTec held workshops with key individuals in every department gathering input and conducting gap analyses to ensure we could get to our target state.”

The process allowed both Brookside and NexTec to have a clear understanding of the configuration, customization and data conversion processes. “Next, we held what we called conference room pilots,” Karkazis explains. “We created scripts to emulate a ‘day-in-the-life’ of various roles in the company as proof of concept that the software was ready for go live.”

“We have complex requirements, a huge data set and many demands on the software, so we took a very methodical, considered approach to the implementation to ensure we got it right,” Karkazis says. “That approach paid off. The actual go live was smooth and uneventful.”



Automating manual processes

With Sage X3, Brookside is now automating many of the processes that were previously manual, including the detailed product labeling required of food manufacturers. “Sage X3 prints the labels as part of the workflow,” says Karkazis. “It has streamlined what once was a time-consuming and manual process.”

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Inventory and Production Insight

Brookside now has full, real-time visibility into its inventory holdings — something lacking from its previous system. Since many of its ingredients have a defined shelf-life, having accurate, up-to-date data about every product ensures the highest quality end product while minimizing waste.

“We also have insight into our production process that we never had before,” says Karkazis. “Previously, we might have to call to the shop floor to understand where in the cycle a particular order was. Now we have that information available in Sage X3. It enables us to give customers more accurate information about their order status.”

Quality throughout

Brookside tests every raw ingredient that enters its facility. Only after the ingredient passes a battery of quality-related tests is it released into the stocking warehouses. “We test our ingredients on numerous characteristics, including aroma, taste, appearance,

moisture content, compound make up and more,” explains Karkazis. “Across literally thousands of products, we’re accumulating a vast amount of quality-related data. Sage X3 holds that data and allows us to analyze it in various ways. For example, we can monitor the performance and consistency of our suppliers over time.”

In addition, the lot traceability features in Sage X3 allow the company to trace a product’s journey throughout its supply chain. Mock recall tests and traceability exercises provide Brookside with the confidence that its systems are prepared in the event of an actual recall.

Doing it right

“NexTec shares our approach to doing business,” concludes Karkazis. “We both insist on doing things right. That requires a level of dedication—and underlying skill—that is hard to find. NexTec brings an abundance of expertise and knowledge of best business practices to our projects that is helping us get the most from Sage X3 and preparing us for our continuing growth and success.”

About NexTec Group

NexTec Group is a leading business software provider, delivering comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Business Intelligence (BI) solutions targeted to the unique needs of our clients. We have the largest Sage X3 team in North America and consultants with deep experience in highly regulated industries, like agriculture, food and beverage, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals.

Learn more at <https://www.nextecgroup.com/foodbev>

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