



Choosing Top Consultants Drives Better Results

BusinessWeek equated it with the inevitable burdens of death and taxes. The *National Review* described its provisions as hurtful “crimes.” It’s the Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002, aka The Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX).

SOX requires public companies to create rigorous, internal financial controls and work with external auditors to attest to the financial accuracy of stated performance. Large and small companies alike have found compliance difficult within the tight deadlines of their financial reporting.

To companies like **Invitrogen Corporation**, a \$1 billion California-based life sciences firm doing business in more than 70 countries, **SOX presents a huge new challenge** in a business already long on challenges and short on spare time and resources. Chief Accounting Officer John Radak sized up the situation and realized that **his team needed help from M²**.

M² consultants worked with Invitrogen on its SOX compliance for 10 months. The team consisted of both financial and IT consultants including CPAs, Certified Information Systems Auditors, and former Big Four accounting firm partners. From start to finish, nationally and internationally, they completed a broad range of tasks including project management, controls matrix development, staff interviews, documentation of key processes, recommendations for remediation, and testing.

M² Consulting is a specialty consulting firm dedicated to helping our clients solve their critical business issues by providing seasoned, targeted consulting expertise tailored to our clients' unique needs.

M² provides unique value:

- » neutral, objective solutions
- » targeted senior talent
- » cultural fit
- » strategy and execution
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“M² provided exactly what we needed when we needed it. Their team blended perfectly with ours and made what could have been a difficult situation manageable and ultimately a success.”

Gerry Garcia
Director, Internal Audit,
Invitrogen Corporation

The Challenge:

Complying with Sarbanes-Oxley regulatory requirements under tight deadlines

The Results:

On-time, full legal compliance
Retooled, reorganized reporting system
Knowledge transfer and client self-sufficiency



Results

Invitrogen achieved full legal compliance within the mandated timeline. M² injected value and expertise where it was needed and left Invitrogen with a **completely retooled, reorganized reporting system, along with the transfer of knowledge and skills** so that their employees could be self-sufficient in the future. Key to success was Invitrogen's ability to select the professionals they wanted from M²'s nationwide team of experts, rather than just being assigned a team who happened to be available but may not be the best fit. According to Radak, "the SOX audit process requires a tremendous amount of collaboration with employees, so it is critical that there is a personal and cultural fit with the consultants."