

Global engineering firm seeks help for Latin America expansion

Multinational engineering and consulting firm Arup sought external to overcome local challenges in their expansion into Colombia and beyond.

About the client

Arup are an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services. Arup brings together broad-minded individuals from a wide range of disciplines and encourages them to look beyond the constraints of their own specialisms. This unconventional approach to design springs in part from Arup's ownership structure; the firm is owned in trust on behalf of its staff.

In our own words

"We're a global firm, and have recently opened a new office in Colombia. This represented a new incursion for us and we needed external help with payroll services, taxes and corporate secretarial services. We didn't have people in Colombia so we reached out to TMF Group. In our expansion into Latin America, we will likely follow the same model of outsourcing these types of services until we reach a critical mass where it makes sense to hire locally."

How TMF Group helped us

"We don't have an Arup finance group in Colombia, so TMF assists us by recording those transactions; they know the local accounting rules. They helped us expand by sharing their local knowledge and by providing corporate secretarial services whereas otherwise we would have to have hired locally. In terms of corporate secretarial work, for example, we recently had to amend the by-laws and TMF Group helped with the shareholders and assembly minutes and general process. We really are utilising them for a breadth of services.

"Overall it's been a really fantastic experience. We've had some bumps in terms of getting aligned with communication and processes, but we've been working well together and I think our contact Dianna is doing a great job of managing our account. It helps that she's fluent in English so we're not as reliant on the few Spanish speakers of our group."

In the future

"We actually just recently signed TMF Group for our Brazil practice. We already have some local book keepers but the transition is set to happen early 2015. It was nice to utilise the same group where we know what type of service to expect and that the language barrier will be largely negated. All of these factors fell into place when making the decision and we look forward to continuing our relationship with TMF Group."

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*Tina Mylonas
Finance Manager, Arup*

TMF Group provides the following services to Arup in Colombia:

- Payroll
- HR services
- Corporate secretarial support
- Accounting
- Tax compliance

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 tmf-group.com