



Swiss Post Solutions: Consolidation of disparate ERP systems

ENHANCED DIALOGUE THROUGH IT

In the past, the Dialogue Solutions unit of Swiss Post Solutions deployed a wide variety of applications for accounting, sales and materials management. To increase efficiency, the company decided to consolidate its applications on a single, standards-based software platform. TDS experts developed an integrated SAP system with a direct interface to the systems used in production.

A homogeneous application landscape is key to ensuring smooth, efficient collaboration between company departments. Against this background, Swiss Post Solutions took the decision in 2007 to consolidate all of its disparate legacy solutions for accounting, sales and materials management in a single, standards-based system.

Ensuring a seamless transition was the top priority, as the applications in question were business-critical

systems for the Dialogue Solutions unit.

One of the biggest challenges was data migration. The large variety of proprietary systems demanded a wholesale consolidation of data. "In view of the complexity of the task, we were looking for a partner with extensive experience in comparable projects, who could guarantee a smooth migration," explains Walter Schröder, Head of IT at Swiss Post Solutions GmbH.



Swiss Post Solutions, part of the Solutions division at Swiss Post, offers companies in Switzerland and beyond efficient, state-of-the-art processing of hardcopy and digital documents, and support for dialogue with their end-customers. Swiss Post Solutions operates in 14 countries across the globe, employing some 7,000 staff in the business units Document Solutions, Dialogue Solutions and E-business Solutions.

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A single system for all processes

TDS was the partner of choice for this engagement. And the IT service provider's SAP specialists developed a common template for all companies belonging to the Dialogue Solutions unit. This template then only required minor customisation to meet the specific requirements of each subsidiary. This approach ensured maximum standardisation coupled with minimum customising effort. The SAP modules deployed are Financial Accounting (FI), Asset Accounting (FI-AA) and Controlling (CO).

Both companies worked together to define the processes to be handled by the software. And Swiss Post Solutions used the transition to SAP as an opportunity to introduce a new general ledger system that supports accounting to both the German Commercial Code (HGB) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). "We definitely benefited from TDS' experience with similar projects. And we now have workflows based on best practices," says Schröder.

In addition to migrating data from diverse legacy systems, the task involved integrating the SAP software with a system used to produce letters and flyers. TDS developed an interface based on SAP NetWeaver for smooth data exchange between the applications. Following a trial period where the system was operated alongside the legacy applications, the new SAP solutions went live on schedule on 1 January 2008.

A one-stop service

"We now benefit from an integrated system that not only significantly reduces administration effort but also gives us complete visibility into key business indicators", continues Schröder. To simplify the move to the new solution for users, TDS provided training for specific employees in the course of the project. Furthermore, staff have access to specially developed documentation.

Now, this successful collaboration is to be extended and the unit's subsidiaries in Poland and the Czech Republic will gain access to the new SAP environment.



THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Challenge:

- Consolidation of multiple, disparate ERP systems
- Introduction of a new general ledger system for accounting
- Integration via SAP NetWeaver of a third-party system used for production

Highlights:

- Optimised workflows based on best practices
- One stop consulting, implementation, user training and support
- Disruption-free migration

Results:

- An integrated, standards-based SAP system comprising FI, FI-AA and CO modules
- Efficient administration
- Common platform for all subsidiaries



"When it came to designing and implementing our new SAP system, we benefited from the substantial experience the TDS experts had from similar projects. This was not limited to IT, but included the optimisation of internal processes."

Walter Schröder, Head of IT at Swiss Post Solutions GmbH



About TDS:

TDS offers IT outsourcing, IT consulting and HR services to mid-sized enterprises and major corporations. Founded in 1975, the company operates predominantly in the German, Austrian and Swiss markets. TDS has been a member of the Fujitsu Group, one of the world's leading IT players, since 2007.

