PROMINENT

"Despite the significant complexity of our systems, data, and processes, the entire data migration worked as planned. We were able to continue business operations with the new system on the scheduled date – without experiencing any problems."
Dr. Jürgen Schäfer, Head of Information Technology (CIO) and Controlling, ProMinent Group

SNP I The Business Transformation Company

SNP

The strategy determines the corporate structure, the structure determines the informational processes.

About ProMinent Group

The ProMinent Group is a manufacturer of components and systems for chemical fluid handling. The company is also a reliable partner providing solutions for water treatment. The corporate group's headquarter is located in Heidelberg. Approximately 2,300 employees in over 60 dedicated sales, production, and service companies and agencies in more than 100 countries guarantee that the company's products and services are available all over the globe.

Futher information: www.prominent.com

Images: ProMinent GmbH, Heidelberg

The Challenge

Since the mid-90s, ProMinent has used SAP® (version 5.0) as its ERP system in its key production facilities. In 2011, as part of a "2nd generation rollout", ProMinent decided to implement SAP (version 6.0) as the standardized ERP system group-wide, and in this process, to integrate the sales and production companies' processes – which are highly interdependent from a logistical standpoint – into the uniform architecture of a SAP template (a centrally hosted SAP system with one company code per legal unit).

After a successful pilot project for ProMinent Fluid Controls South Africa in 2011, the next step of the rollout was carried out in 2012. On January 1st, 2013, the Group's five companies that already ran SAP 5.0 began using the new SAP 6.0 template, including the Group's key production facilities in Heidelberg, the Czech Republic, Malta, Ireland, as well as at the Group's headquarters.

In making this change, the technical migration from SAP 5.0 to SAP 6.0 actually played a rather minor role in the overall context. The main challenge posed by the complexity of the project and the migration was due to the fact that going live with SAP 6.0 resulted in far-reaching changes to the Group's corporate structure, since particularly the Finance and Controlling modules required the introduction of previously unknown information structures. The group-wide introduction of profit center accounting is a good example of this. Furthermore, on January 1st, 2013, the German sales organization, based in Heidelberg, was spun off from the parent company.

Taken together for the SAP rollout project, these circumstances meant significant and complex changes needed to be made to master and transaction data, account and cost center structures, as well as to the open transactions that needed to be migrated to that system on January 1st, 2013.

The sheer amount of data that needed to be migrated, made manually completing large portions of the migration impossible. Assistance from automatic migration processes that needed to strictly and effectively reproduce the complexity of the data structures became the critical requirement to the success of the project.

The Solution

Using SNP Transformation Backbone®, it was easy to carry out the changes to the data structure and the associated reorganization of historical and current data. The software contains transformation rules that can be used to make adjustments automatically, eliminating the need for manual programming. This reduces the time, costs and energy down spent carrying out a project and significantly reduces error rates. In addition, SNP Transformation Backbone lets you clearly follow every step of the project. This means that should an issue arise, corrective action can be taken immediately.

Systematically tailoring the 2013 SAP rollout campaign's "data migration" subproject to the use of SNP Transformation Backbone meant that the SAP module experts worked with the company's departments early on to formulate, test, and when necessary, optimize the transformation rules. Because they were spread out over a longer period of time, the test migrations carried out in the second half of 2013 were easy to coordinate with the other SAP subprojects that usually make use of the same human resources.

The preparations for the live migration were completed with a "go live simulation" which, in addition to other aspects, specifically made it possible to run through the paths of communication between ProMinent and SNP for when the system eventually goes live.

After completing these intensive preparations, the data migration for the company codes going live with SAP 6.0 began on December 27, 2012, and was completed as scheduled before the start of operations on January 2nd, 2013.

SNP's methods have been certified by leading auditing firms such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young. As a result, this reduces the workload for both the auditor and the respective project teams when conducting future migration audits.

The Advantages

- Standardized ERP system with a consistent database
- Reduced complexity of the IT systems
- Thanks to SNP Transformation Backbone, data can be continuously migrated after the fact
- Users can acquire relevant knowledge and skills, allowing future projects to be carried out with minimal external support