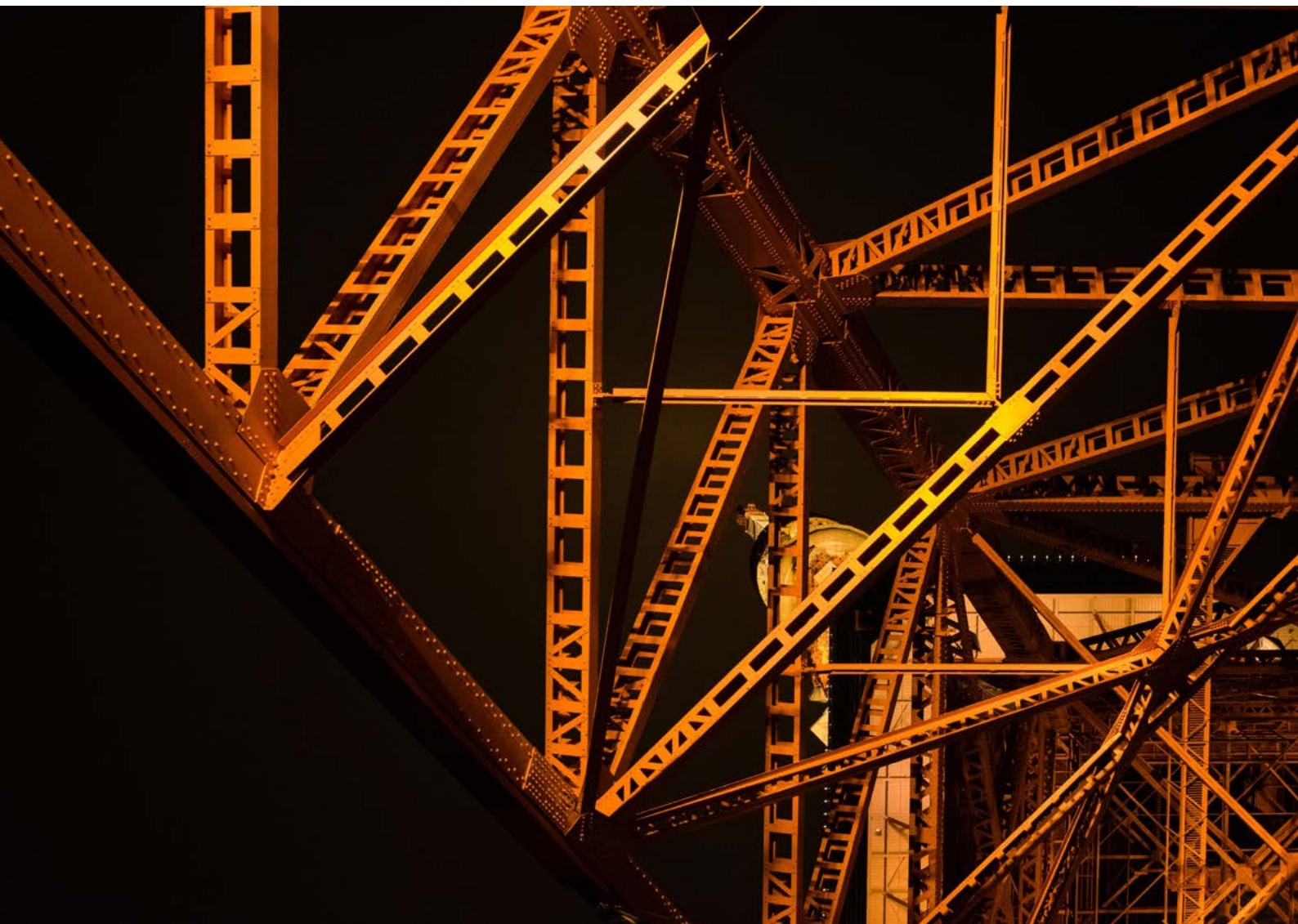bam

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BAM UPGRADES TO SAP BW 7.5 IN RECORD TIME

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When worldwide construction and engineering company Royal BAM Group decided to upgrade its business warehouse as part of a broader digital transformation strategy, they had a specific goal in mind: migrate only the data they needed from an aging SAP BW 7.0 system running on DB2 to SAP BW 7.5 running on HANA database as a part of a longer-term strategy to move to SAP BW/4 HANA over the next two years.

"For us, upgrading to SAP BW 7.5 was one step in a longer process," said Phillip Laycock, SAP BI Consultant. "We know the business needs a system that can support them in their decision making. It's our job to put the tools in place that can help make that happen." With the announcement that SAP would stop supporting older BW versions by 2020, the time was right to implement a faster, more reliable system that could support better data lifecycle management and more nimble querying and reporting.

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>
> **Phillip Laycock,**
> SAP BI Consultant,
> SAP

OVERVIEW

Worldwide construction and engineering company Royal BAM Group upgraded its SAP business warehouse to SAP BW 7.5 in just 105 days, part of a longer-term strategy to move to SAP BW/4 HANA over the next two years.

THE CHALLENGE: HOW TO RUN A FAST AND RISK-FREE UPGRADE TO SAP BW 7.5

Migrating to SAP BW 7.5 running on SAP HANA would provide BAM with a simplified architecture, better performance, and real-time access to data for faster, more reliable business intelligence. The challenge would be how to arrive at that desired state quickly and with very low risk of failure. BAM decided early on to find an experienced partner with domain expertise who could help them leapfrog several point releases in a very tight timeframe. "Why reinvent the wheel if there is a specialist in the market who can do it faster and better?" said Phillip Laycock. Datavard came highly recommended—scoring high points for their expertise with optimizing SAP solutions as well as building innovative toolsets to leverage automation. BAM's demanding timeline for implementing the new system would also require an experienced team that could collaborate successfully under pressure.

CHALLENGES

- Tight timeline and high pressure

- Identify and migrate only a subset of data

- Improve performance for faster and more reliable business intelligence

- Optimize SAP solutions

- Skipping several point releases to gain efficiencies

THE PROCESS: USING A TOOL BASED APPROACH TO EXECUTE A SEAMLESS UPGRADE

With the goal of finishing the upgrade in 105 days, Datavard pursued a tool-based approach to automate as many tasks as possible: from initial data validation, selection and transfer of data, to testing and validation in the new system. Datavard FitnessTest provide a detailed inventory of all current data, as well as information about what data to import and what data to discard (based on input from the BAM team). "The information was displayed visually as a kind of heat map so that we could quickly pinpoint what data we needed and what data we could leave behind," said Niek Hesse, Project Manager. "It was a very helpful tool." Datavard also converted selected business objects from obsolete modeling to a new format compatible with SAP BW/4HANA. Namely DSOs and Info Cubes were converted to ADSOs and the Multi Providers and Info Sets have been converted to Composite providers. Transformations and queries have been adjusted accordingly, to minimize the business impact.

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Getting rid of old data, metadata, and business objects was key to a more agile, future-ready system. "The world is changing," said Phillip Laycock. "We need to use technology differently and move to a more innovative model. Datavard helped us lay a foundation to get us to a place where we could start using new technologies to support the business."

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THE RESULTS: A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A SEAMLESS MOVE TO SAP BW/4HANA

In just 105 days, BAM was able to move from an aging data warehouse solution to a future-ready system that will be the foundation for its move to SAP BW/4HANA in the next two years. By avoiding a manual process that would have involved a slower journey through several point releases, BAM was able to achieve the same objective with fewer resources and much lower costs.

ABOUT BAM

Royal BAM Group is a construction and engineering firm with ten operating companies in five European home markets and in niche markets worldwide. BAM has approximately 19,500 employees and is a listed company at Euronext Amsterdam. It is BAM's mission to build sustainable environments that enhance people's lives by helping clients capitalize on state-of-the-art knowledge, resources and digital technologies, providing solutions across the total construction life cycle and generating maximum value for its stakeholders.