



Enrichment Technology Company Limited (ETC)

More efficiency and flexibility through a uniform ERP system

ETC is a company of the Urenco Group, whose holding company is Urenco Ltd., headquartered in Marlow near London. ETC, which is likewise registered in Great Britain, was founded in October 2003 and has its headquarters in Almelo. The company has two subsidiaries, Enrichment Technology Nederland B.V. (ET NL) and Enrichment Technology UK Ltd. (ET UK), as well as a German regional office: Enrichment Technology Company Ltd., Zweigniederlassung Deutschland (ETC D).

The core business of ETC covers:

- the development, production and installation of gas centrifuges for the enrichment of uranium to supply fuel for nuclear power plants, and
- the design of uranium enrichment systems with centrifuge technology and project management for the construction of such facilities.

The business basis for the data and processes of the company is SAP R/3. At the start of the Merge project, about 1000 employees were working on three different systems at four production sites.

The project

Group-wide standardization of the data and processes as well as of the IT applications was and is one of the most important goals of the IT department at ETC. A first significant step toward consolidation was the transfer of the local SAP R/3 applications to one single central SAP R/3 system in the Netherlands. The next milestone on the road to standardized international business processes was group-wide harmonization of the SAP R/3 systems being used. With a view to enabling the international organizational units to grow even closer together and to achieving substantial cost savings in the various areas, the number of clients was reduced to one R/3 client.



Stefan Kirchhoff
Head of IT, ETC

"This conversion will make it possible for ETC to later harmonize its business processes and will take ETC one step further towards its goal of becoming a fully integrated and process-oriented company."



The challenge

The harmonization of the SAP R/3 systems at ETC constituted an extremely complex task both for ETC's own IT department and for ourselves. Under the direction of ETC and the IT unit at Siemens, the SAP R/3 systems in use for Germany, the Netherlands and the UK – in each case a test system and a production system – were combined to form one central system. On the way, we had to negotiate a number of rocky shoals:

- Building a central client for ETC
- Developing the transfer strategy
- Transferring the R/3 systems to the central system
- Migrating to the central client
- Cleaning up the development and test environment

Benefits for ETC

- Uniform SAP platform throughout the whole group
- Group-wide standardization of business processes and business data
- Access to the same data for the entire corporate group
- Possibility for the corporate group to grow together (organizationally and in its IT activities)
- Reduction of the support effort for release changes and administration
- Lower costs as a result of fewer hardware systems
- Freed-up resources for new, innovative tasks
- Faster availability, greater transparency, and greater precision in operating results
- Shorter program development cycles for adaptations and new developments

The solution

The systems were combined in a series of steps:

Phase 1 (System Merge)

- Creation of a uniform transport environment for all SAP R/3 systems
- Analysis and reconciliation of client-independent settings
- Analysis and reconciliation of the ABAP programs
- Analysis of the interfaces to subsystems
- Consolidation of the hardware; in this step the British and German systems were transferred to the Netherlands

- Individual and integration test with the participation of the various departments

Phase 2 (Client Merge)

- Analysis and reconciliation of the client-specific settings
- Analysis of the SAP R/3 user data
- Active use of process harmonization to eliminate conflicts in the client-specific settings
- Use of our transition tool
- Individual and integration test with the participation of the various departments

In the overall harmonization project, various information was implemented in the following SAP R/3 modules: FI, AM, CO, MM, WM, SD, PP, Classification, CATS, DMS, QM, PM, PS and HR. The analysis of the initial test migration identified over 47 million data records that could be cleaned up for harmonization.

A change in the customizing and clean-up of the systems in use at this point in time further reduced disk space by 150 GB while the project was still in progress. During harmonization, a total of some half a billion data records were read, about 202 million data records were transferred, and about 100 million fields were modified. Nearly 1,000 code conversion rules were used.

Our services

Siemens contributed mature technical expertise and industry know-how to the project. With our modular and efficient transition tool, it was even possible to combine controlling areas – in addition to the pure transfer and code conversion of the data. Nearly every affected business object (e.g. ordering) was transferred and re-coded, for example the material, supplier and address numbers. Our special tools, customer-specific knowledge and the right expert resources worked together with outstanding efficiency.

Our services for ETC in brief:

- Consult: Develop the transfer strategy
- Design: Create the project catalog
- Build: Complete project execution

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