Accurate SAP® HCM test data brings a new level of efficiency to Subsea 7

“We’ve used Data Sync Manager Object Sync™ every day for the past two years. It’s a huge time-saver ...”
Subsea 7 at a glance

Industry – Offshore and onshore engineering and construction for the oil and gas industry.

Founded – The company was founded in 2011 with the merger of its two predecessor companies, AcERGY S.A. and Subsea 7 Inc.

Headquarters – London

Products – Field developments, design, engineering, construction, installation and maintenance of facilities.

Area served – Worldwide in all deep water offshore markets.

About Subsea 7
Subsea 7 is a leading contractor in seabed-to-surface engineering, construction and services, primarily to the global offshore oil and gas industry. The company provides technical solutions worldwide to enable the delivery of complex projects in all water depths and undersea environments.

www.subsea7.com

First steps
Subsea 7 runs Payroll for UK, Norway and France on one global instance of SAP®. Prior to the installation of Data Sync Manager, the SAP Specialist Support team frequently had to fix production payroll issues, while the recreation of test data scenarios in the development system took several hours. Cristy Oliphant, SAP HR Payroll Support Manager, commented, “The demand to have up-to-date data for testing was becoming a frequent request and we needed a solution to help us with accurate payroll testing.”

The business case
The business case was simple but strong. Subsea 7 could not justify spending several hours recreating test scenarios when products such as DSM Object Sync™ for SAP HCM could be used to increase efficiencies and save huge amounts of time.

Data Sync Manager had been highly recommended by Subsea 7’s SAP support partner and formal demonstrations of the product and its capabilities followed as part of a competitive process. The choice to purchase the solution was unanimous. Aside from the power and potential of the solution, factors such as EPI-USE Labs’ strong customer base and support network were a convincing additional rationale behind the decision to purchase.

The implementation
Prior to implementation, Subsea 7 was given access to the EPI-USE Labs support portal, Client Central, where they were able to download and apply the transport in a few easy steps – Data Sync Manager Object Sync roles were also created at this point.
A role is a grouping of Object Sync tasks and authorisations. Each Object Sync user must be assigned one or more of the following roles, which ensures that stringent control and security is maintained in Object Sync:

- **Administrator**
  - Configuration of DSM

- **Super User**
  - Management of users, and ability to Sync (copy data)

- **User**
  - Ability to Sync

- **Developer**
  - Extension or creation of Business Objects

**Training**

Training in the form of a series of workshop sessions, was held at Subsea 7’s premises. After just two days, functional users were copying back data for testing. A comprehensive session was also held with the SAP Specialist Support team to run through functionality and Z-programmes. Initially, it was difficult for Subsea 7 to believe that they would be up and running in only two days, but that is exactly what happened.

“It’s extremely easy to use. We have added a few users lately and with just a 5-minute demonstration they have been able to use the product effectively.”

Cristy Oliphant | SAP HR Payroll Support Manager
How Data Sync Manager is used today

A decision was made to segregate roles, so the SAP Specialist Support team are ‘Super Users’, whilst end-users only have ‘User’ access. They use templates that have been designed for them when they want to create and copy data.

Data Sync Manager is used daily by functional users in Payroll. These users have the ability to copy and test employee data without reliance on the SAP Specialist Support team. It is used primarily to Sync HR functions, all HR structures, payroll data, appraisal information and Learning Management Systems.

“Copying individual payroll data now takes just a couple of minutes. Data Sync Manager is easy to use, fast and extremely capable and being able to get up-to-date test data means faster, more accurate and effective test scenarios. What used to take several hours and involve specialist resources can now be done by anyone with a little training. The entire operation at Subsea 7 is smoother, less stressful and importantly, returns were immediately evident,” states Cristy.

At Subsea 7, the SAP Specialist Support Team and end-users use Data Sync Manager daily in a number of different ways to save time and effort. The product has been instrumental in helping avoid payroll errors, and its ability to copy data easily and efficiently on demand in just a few seconds, has had a marked effect on the efficiency of Subsea 7’s operation.