



CASE STUDY

**Edenhouse delivers seamless
SAP consolidation for e2v**

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Global engineering company, e2v technologies, designs, develops and manufactures cutting-edge radio frequency, microwave and sensing components and subsystems for specialist applications in medical, aerospace, defence, commercial and industrial markets. Its highly-engineered solutions include RF power solutions, radar systems, high-performance imaging solutions and hi-rel semiconductor solutions.

Delivering everything from partial components to full solutions, e2v has completed projects for high-profile programmes such as the Airbus A380 and the Hubble telescope. The company, which is headquartered in Chelmsford, Essex, employs over 1,600 staff across six European and US sites.



The Challenge

Following the acquisition of its French site in 2007, e2v was running its UK headquarters and its French office on two different SAP systems. In addition to duplicating resource and expenditure, running the two different systems prevented the sites from easily sharing information.

Daren Carpenter, group IT business systems manager, e2v technologies, comments: "It was costing the business a significant amount of money to maintain the two SAP systems, not just in terms of time, but we were also incurring substantial costs for the external hosted environment being used by the French office.

"More significantly, we really wanted the two sites to be able to work together much more easily, it was important to be able to share information, resource, processes and best practice, consolidating the SAP systems was vital to making this happen."

e2v turned to independent SAP consultancy, Edenhouse, to develop a strategy to migrate the French site on to the SAP system managed at the company's UK headquarters. With disjointed software usage across the two sites, Edenhouse carried out a gap analysis study to see how the two systems could be successfully consolidated.

Following extensive consultation with e2v's SAP Business team, Edenhouse discovered concerns from the French site around the potential loss of functionality as a result of the migration. Paul McCudden, director, Edenhouse, explains, "Despite the fact that the two sites were using SAP, they were using different instances and in entirely different ways, there were also concerns about the practicalities of working together on the same system."

Manufacturing inventory software, MFG pro, was a key suite for the French site which the team was particularly concerned about losing as it was fundamental to its manufacturing processes.



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/ E2V TECHNOLOGIES

The Solution

e2v appointed Edenhouse to develop a strategy which would seamlessly migrate the French site on to the SAP system used at the businesses headquarters. "It was important that we had a partner that understood the system compatibility and as our primary SAP provider we knew we had this with the team at Edenhouse. In addition, Edenhouse offered us a fixed price option which demonstrated not only their commitment to the project but also their belief in the solution they had recommended," Carpenter says of the partnership.

"We felt it was crucial to spend time on the ground with the team in France, this enabled us to understand the SAP system the team was working with and exactly how they were using it. As a result of this we were able to identify the functionality that was key to the business and assess how this could effectively be integrated into the SAP system being used at the Chelmsford headquarters." explains McCudden.

A particular concern for e2v was potential issues during the go live process which could cause negative perception and therefore poor early adoption. To negate the risk of any potential problems during this period, Edenhouse sent a team of qualified SAP consultants to support e2v on site.

McCudden adds, "We sent a team to France for a week to manage the go-live, however, the cutover ran so smoothly that the team was back in the UK within three days. e2v directors also travelled to France due to the sensitivity of the project so it was great to have such a positive outcome."

The first name for SAP support

Edenhouse is a privately owned SAP business with a prime focus on support, enhancements and projects. With some of the most experienced consultants in the UK, Edenhouse focus on developing long-term relationships with their clients by delivering high quality, value-added services to organisations that have chosen SAP as their strategic enterprise platform.



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The Outcome

"Through a close analysis of the differences between the two systems, we have been able to accommodate the needs of both sites on to a single SAP system while ensuring the company was able to continue working without disruption," says McCudden.

"We are thrilled with this new unified system and how seamlessly Edenhouse enabled us to achieve it. The consolidation has certainly streamlined the company, enabling us to more easily share the expertise and resource within the business, as well as rationalise our purchasing and resourcing from external suppliers. Despite initial concerns over certain functionality, we have actually gained, rather than losing any.

"Migrating on to a single SAP system has enabled us to prevent the duplication of resource within the business which has undoubtedly increased efficiency and profitability. The migration has negated the need for an external hosted environment, which has instantly saved the business £130,000.

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Having saved the company money as well as radically increasing efficiency, Edenhouse is due to embark on the second phase of its work for e2v. The company is now carrying out production planning for e2v in the UK, which is set to be rolled out across the company's UK sites later in the year.

Carpenter concludes, "Over the years we have developed a fantastic relationship with Edenhouse, the team solely consists of qualified SAP consultants and we know that every time we speak to a member of the team we're going to receive expert advice that we know we can trust 100 per cent." ■