

Systems integration by Edenhouse Solutions for Volkswagen UK results in more efficient financial processing



Executive Summary

Volkswagen UK, part of the Volkswagen Group, is one of the country's largest importers of vehicles, employing nearly 600 people nationwide, with headquarters in Milton Keynes.

The parent company in Germany wanted to standardise its financial procedures, and in particular wanted all transactions such as payments and direct debits to go through its global treasury in Brussels.

Volkswagen UK was using SAP 4.7 for its financial transactions but the parent company was using SAP ECC6. This meant that the UK users were following different processes, and most of these processes were manual, which affected efficiency.

Volkswagen UK therefore needed a solution which could provide financial information integration between the two systems, and was also automated.

The company was looking for one standard, future-proof SAP process which would be easier to support and better for upgrading.

Edenhouse Solutions already provided SAP support to Volkswagen UK and were well placed to take on the job of implementing the required solution.

In order to fully understand Volkswagen UK's needs, Edenhouse technical consultant Wojciech Haase spent three weeks gathering information about the business and working through design and implementation guideline documents. He needed to know what data the users were sending, when it was required and how the data was exchanged between the systems.

SAP has a format called Intermediate Document (IDoc) which allows information to be stored and moved from system to another. Each type of information, such as a direct debit or bank statement, uses its own type of IDoc.

"We were able to estimate the number of days it would take us to produce each type of IDoc, enabling us to give Volkswagen UK an idea of how much their solution would cost and how long it would take," says Wojciech.



Das Auto.

Executive Summary

The Edenhouse technical team configured SAP to allow financial information to pass smoothly between the two SAP systems.

"We needed to take what was valid for the UK and make it work for global processes," says Wojciech. "But it was important to follow SAP's protocols in order to ensure that the new system could be supported by SAP and that it is upgradeable."

In order to transfer the IDocs between systems, Edenhouse set up RFC Connection – a SAP standard way of communication.

The new system was tested by Volkswagen UK users, and implementation took about four weeks, with the Edenhouse team working closely with Volkswagen UK's superusers.

Edenhouse consultant Kylie Jordan says: *"We already knew the SAP users at Volkswagen UK. This is something which can make a great difference to how successful a SAP integration can be."*

Volkswagen UK has achieved a fully automated process for financial processing between itself and its parent company in Brussels. Transactions no longer have to be manually keyed in, saving time and resulting in fewer mistakes.

Charlotte Bellew, SAP Support for Volkswagen Group UK, says: *"It's now easier to keep an eye on cashflow, and we have a lot less spreadsheets. It's also easier to find different transactions within the system."*

For Volkswagen UK's users, instead of having to go through a series of manual steps to carry out a transaction, their processes became fully automatic. This was a difficult step for some of the regular users, who didn't have confidence in their new system until they saw it in action.

Edenhouse support consultant Kylie Jordan says: *"The great thing about a project like this is that the technology is all proven, and the Edenhouse team have every confidence that it will work. Some of the Volkswagen users were quite stressed on the first day of integration, but once they saw their first job go through the system automatically, there were big smiles all around!"*

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