

Paul Aschmann		1 <sup>st</sup> February 2009
Project Brief		

Project:	SAP Implementation
Company:	AKsys USA, Inc.
Role:	SAP Project Manager
Project Length:	1 Year



**About the Customer**

AKsys USA, Inc. is a major global automotive supplier in the Acoustic, Sound Deadening and Structural plastics market. The midsize company has a global annual turnover of \$300 Million, has 17 manufacturing plants in 7 countries and a workforce of 2500 people.

**Project Overview**

Being an automotive supplier in the US has extremely demanding requirements and puts a large amount of responsibility onto its suppliers. These range from tedious Quality controls through to time sensitive communications via EDI. Having these stringent business requirements requires a company to have an extremely flexible and configurable ERP at its foundation. Due to rapid growth our original ERP system Mapics Extended Systems (from Infor) was limiting our employees ability to keep up with customer requirements and employee demands on a day to day basis. We also wanted to advance our business systems forward and provide all employees with a system which could satisfy their need from a reporting and functional standpoint.

*“Some of the biggest challenges of the project were integration points to legacy systems”*

After 4 months of product and vendor evaluations we decided to implement SAP ECC 6.0 in our manufacturing facility. The core modules of SAP were implemented along with Asset Management. Some of the biggest challenges of the project were integration points to legacy systems such as EDI translators and warehouse management systems.

**Project Role**

My first role in stage one of the project was to evaluate and create a project scope. Once the scope was created my team assessed other manufacturing plants and their use of SAP and defined a set of organizational best practices for ERP systems. Once we had the scope defined and a set of guidelines we created a high level business blueprint and molded the system and processes to conform to the company’s requirements.

In stage two I interviewed and evaluated implementation partners for the project and ensured budget and scope requirements were well understood by the partners.

The third and final phase of the project I was responsible for customer and vendor liaisons, training, management reviews, budget reviews, team building, status reports, testing schedules, and to ensure the project requirements were followed and well documented.

**Tools Used**

Microsoft Project - track schedules, resources, budgets and tasks. Microsoft Visio - mapping business processes and flow charts. SAP Best Practice Guidelines . Numerous SAP Implementation and project management books. Rational Rose for data modeling.

**Project Outcome**

This proved to be one of my hardest challenges to date in my professional career. A tight timeline with an aggressive budget was proposed and met which is a major feat with any technology project. The personal achievement and satisfaction of meeting tough goals were some of the best rewards throughout the project.