

AMOS transforms accounting workflows and cuts workload with SAP and IBM

Overview

The need

To facilitate compliance, Allianz Managed Operations & Services SE (AMOS) rolled out new, standardized processes to accelerate reporting workflows, streamlining quarter- and year-end closing processes.

The solution

AMOS teamed with IBM® Global Business Services® to consolidate and automate accounting processes using integrated SAP ERP applications.

The benefit

Transforms closing processes to eliminate duplication of work, and helps to reduce the reporting workload by 10-20 percent. Integrates planning for improved accuracy. Enables personnel to focus on more value-added work.

Allianz Managed Operations & Services SE (AMOS) is Allianz Group's Shared Service provider headquartered in Munich, Germany.

AMOS looked for a more robust and efficient way to provide accurate reports in a timely manner. The aim was to build a best-practice approach that could meet the current reporting requirements and deliver the scalability to support future business growth.

Michael Karmann, Program and Project Manager at Allianz Managed Operations & Services SE, says, "We wanted to transform the organization to produce accurate reports more quickly. Our objective was to improve information flow while reducing manual workload and enhance staff productivity of approximately 300 people across more than 50 companies."

Standardizing accounting with SAP and IBM

Joining forces with IBM Global Business Services, AMOS rolled out its standardized process template and established a common accounting platform, based on SAP software solutions running on IBM infrastructure.

Michael Karmann elaborates, "We selected IBM Global Business Services as consulting and implementation partner because it drafted a compelling concept for this complex roll-out project. The IBM team's solid experience in combination with the right balance between local and offshore staff convinced us that IBM Global Business Services was a good choice for this project."

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Solution components

Hardware

- IBM® zEnterprise® 196
- IBM Power® 710

Software

- IBM AIX®
- IBM DB2® for Linux, UNIX and Windows
- IBM DB2 for z/OS®
- IBM InfoSphere® Information Server
- IBM Tivoli® Monitoring
- IBM Tivoli Storage Manager
- IBM WebSphere® Application Server
- IBM z/OS

Applications

- SAP ERP
- SAP Enterprise Portal
- SAP Business Warehouse

Services

- IBM Global Business Services®



10-20 percent reduction in reporting workloads

The project team analyzed existing procedures and local requirements with a view to replacing multiple processes with a single, integrated solution.

Michael Karmann explains, “We worked closely with IBM Global Business Services and identified the gaps between our standardized SAP ERP application template and what the local business needed. IBM then managed the implementation of the customizations including the deployment of an advanced data mart and analytics solution by IBM Business Partner SAS Institute to provide detailed insight into all transactions.”

The joint team connected the more than 80 source systems to the local SAP ERP and SAP Business Warehouse applications. Next, the team plugged the new SAP solution into a central integration layer provided by AMOS, which ensures accurate consolidation across various systems and countries in the main SAP ERP applications. In parallel, IBM set up the SAS environment to allow sophisticated business analytics. Offshore development teams implemented the requirements specified by the local consultants.

Michael Karmann says, “We were very satisfied with the IBM project team. The project manager as well as the IBM staff members were competent and efficient when implementing the SAP ERP and SAS solutions. We quickly noticed that IBM is experienced in coordinating work between local and offshore teams to avoid language barriers and provide local expertise where needed while also keeping costs low to complete such a complex project within budget.”

AMOS and a local IT service provider operate the new solution on IBM z Systems™ and IBM Power Systems™ servers running the IBM z/OS® and IBM AIX® operating systems. The new processes take advantage of IBM DB2® databases, IBM InfoSphere® Information Server, IBM WebSphere® Application Server and IBM Tivoli® backup and monitoring solutions.

Boosting productivity and eliminating errors

AMOS successfully streamlined the accounting, tax accounting and consolidation processes to provide more accurate business figures more rapidly. The new approach helps to improve business management and facilitate financial consolidation.

“We are very satisfied with the results, and IBM Global Business Services has helped us realize our objectives and successfully boost productivity across more than 50 companies.”

— Michael Karmann, Program and Project Manager, Allianz Managed Operations & Services SE



Top talent spends less time on repetitive tasks

Michael Karmann explains, “In the past, our processes led to duplicated effort in our pre-closing processes – a considerable expense. As part of our standardization efforts, we have optimized business processes, and as a result, we can now help avoid the time and cost of redundant work. And crucially, thanks to the integrated SAP ERP application, accurate figures can be provided much faster than before.”

Michael Karmann adds, “In fact, reporting workload was reduced by 10-20 percent within the scope of this roll-out project. We have automated repetitive, routine tasks and eliminated the need for manual corrections in different systems. About 300 highly skilled accounting and controlling personnel today spend more time on analyzing data instead of simple bookkeeping, helping to grow the business and manage operations more efficiently.”

The IBM team helped to integrate financial planning processes with SAP ERP and other business applications, further reducing the need for manual effort while providing a better overview and more precise information. And because the SAP solution analyzes journal entries for data-quality issues automatically, the risk of human error has been reduced, accounting principles have been standardized, and data quality has been significantly improved.

Michael Karmann concludes, “The joint team completed this change management project on time and on budget. We are very satisfied with the results, and IBM Global Business Services has helped us realize our objectives and successfully boost productivity across more than 50 companies.”

For more information

To learn more about IBM Global Business Services, contact your IBM sales representative or visit: ibm.com/gbs



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