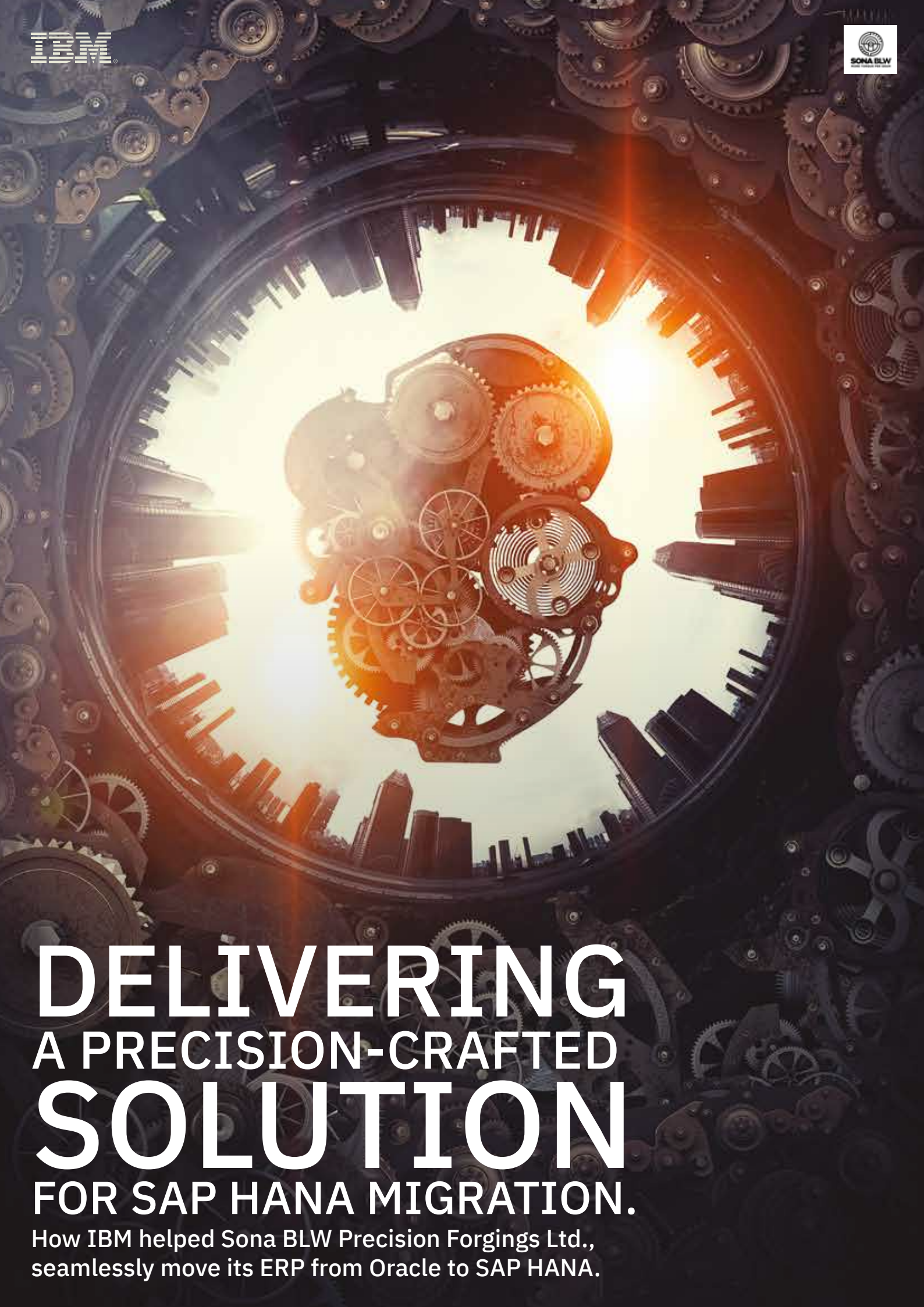

DELIVERING A PRECISION-CRAFTED SOLUTION FOR SAP HANA MIGRATION.

How IBM helped Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd., seamlessly move its ERP from Oracle to SAP HANA.

About the Company

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd., a part of Sona Group, is a USD 400 million company with interests in precision forged gears and driveline technologies. Sona BLW is the largest differential bevel gear manufacturer in India, and has close to 68% market share in the country and 11% globally. The company's products are used in passenger cars, commercial vehicles, tractors and off-road vehicles. Sona BLW supplies to tier-1 manufacturers and has the unique distinction of being a single source supplier to leading global OEMs. The company has 8 manufacturing plants across India, Germany and Hungary.

The Business Challenge

Sona BLW had its IT infrastructure consolidated with Sona Koyo Steering System, which was a joint venture between Sona Group and Japan's JTEKT Corporation. In 2017, Sona Group decided to sell off its stake in the joint venture. Post the de-merger, Sona BLW had to set up its own IT systems. The company took a strategic decision to move from the existing Oracle EBS to SAP HANA as it would help better integrate the supply chain system with finance and operations. Moreover, the company’s German counterpart, Sona BLW Präzisionsschmiede, was already using SAP and recommended implementing it.

Another key consideration for the company was achieving the highest levels of performance and uptime, which is crucial for a manufacturing organisation. A totally new ERP system also meant ensuring end-to-end technical support from the hardware vendor to maintain seamless operations.

The Transformation Story

The IT team at Sona BLW weighed the pros and cons of the options available to identify the right fit. The solutions proposed by other Intel vendors had six to seven servers and associated storage. IBM, on account of its superior virtualisation technology, was able to fit the entire ERP system into two POWER8 servers and a storage. The decision to choose IBM Power Systems was further simplified by the following factors:

Ease of deployment:

IBM Power Systems provide unmatched flexibility of deployment due to virtualisation. Adding/removing resources for any particular LPAR can be done swiftly without impacting the other LPARs in the server.

Better Reliability, Availability and Scalability:

IBM Power Systems deliver the maximum uptime in the industry. During migration, the solution had to be revised a few times. But due to the flexibility and scalability of the servers, no extra hardware was ever required. After deployment, the system could run many more LPARs and use more resources than initially planned, providing flexibility for future growth.

With its superior virtualisation technology, IBM was able to fit the entire ERP system into two POWER8 servers and a storage.

Cost-efficiency:

With almost double the per core performance than competitors, IBM Power Systems could consolidate the solution on fewer number of physical machines, leading to a smaller data center footprint and lower TCO.

During migration, the solution had to be revised a few times. But due to the flexibility and scalability of the servers, no extra hardware was ever required.

The Result is Proof Enough

By running SAP HANA on IBM Power Systems, Sona BLW could streamline their processes, consolidate finance, integrate supply chain, improve vendor management and make reporting easy. Though the deployment strategy was revised multiple times, the company could manage without any additional cost as IBM Power Systems proved to be very flexible to the changing needs.

The phenomenal performance of SAP HANA on IBM Power Systems impressed not just the IT team in India, but also their counterparts in Germany, who are now studying the solution closely.

Solution Components

Power Server - S824 (2 nos), V5010 (1 no)

To know about SONA BLW, visit :

www.sonablw.com; www.sonablw.in