



BLANC & FISCHER: Successful SAP S/4HANA Big Bang Go-Live

**BLANC &
FISCHER**

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About the BLANC & FISCHER-Group

BLANC & FISCHER employs around 8,000 people who generate an annual turnover of around 1.2 billion euros. The group includes BLANCO, the specialist for the water place in the kitchen, E.G.O., the component supplier for manufacturers of household appliances, and B.PRO, the producer of capital goods for large kitchens

In a dynamic business environment, the BLANC & FISCHER Group is faced with the task of modernizing its ERP systems. To this end, BLANC & FISCHER is implementing two S/4HANA transformations in its operational groups E.G.O. and BLANCO. After a project duration of 2.5 years, the E.G.O.-Group went live smoothly at Easter 2024. cbs is supporting BLANC & FISCHER on their way to the NEXT generation business solution.

To get the most out of the SAP S/4HANA transformation, BLANC & FISCHER is combining it with extensive changes. The overarching transformation goal of the BLANC & FISCHER Group is the holistic digitization of end-to-end business processes: from overarching standardization and harmonization activities in finance to the adaptation of logistics processes to establish sustainable efficiency increases. The core elements of the digital transformation are two S/4HANA transformations for the group's largest operating company groups, E.G.O. and BLANCO.

Approach and procedure

The team has been evaluating the switch to SAP S/4HANA since the end of 2017. BLANC & FISCHER chose a structured, selective approach to manage the S/4HANA switch and improve the group's financial transparency and operational efficiency

“Our approach is to implement as much as possible in a greenfield approach. Ultimately, however, the transformation must be designed in such a way that it is feasible both technically and for the organization, and the scope is realistic“



Andreas Hohmann

Director und Head of
SAP Applications at
BLANC & FISCHER



In addition, the project had to be aligned with other ongoing digitization projects that overlap with the S/4 transformation.

BLANC & FISCHER decided to work with cbs Corporate Business Solutions to implement the finance and controlling modules using the greenfield approach, while the operational logistics modules remained largely unchanged. In this way, cbs ONE Finance was able to implement key building blocks, such as a globally uniform cost accounting system in a standardized cost accounting area (Global Controlling Area), a global chart of accounts (Unique Chart of Accounts), the New General Ledger incl. document splitting and a low-volume solution, new asset accounting, the cost of sales method enabled by global functional areas and prof-

it and loss accounting in the new margin analysis with parallel integrated group valuation.

Test phases and quality assurance

The E.G.O.-Group's SAP S/4HANA platform went live over the Easter holidays in 2024.

“The go-live went without a hitch. That’s how it should be. The team did a great job”

says project manager Andreas Hohmann, summing up. The extensive preparations were a key factor. As part of the integration tests, all processes, applications, interfaces, data and technical settings relevant to the SAP S/4HANA project were extensively tested before the go-live of the new production system.

“The main goal of the first integration test is to find as many errors as possible that could lead to defects. During the entire test cycles, the quality will increase as errors are fixed and their number decreases. In the last test cycle, no or only minor disruptions should be detected. The goal is to have a stable system immediately after going live,” explains Felix Kruse, Manager at cbs. The final user acceptance test phase served as a dress rehearsal and helped to familiarize users with the new system and ensure smooth operation after going live.

Key success factors

A crucial aspect was the clearly defined timeline within the project and in the test phases. This included synchronizing the global teams and ensuring that key people were available during critical phases. “Without a clear timeline of how to proceed and what needs to be done by when, one will never realize a project of this magnitude,” Andreas Hohmann emphasizes. A well-thought-out change management strategy ensured that communication was always clear and transparent.



Andreas Hohmann also stresses the importance of a successful partnership:

“We work with cbs as equals. Everyone is passionate about what they do, we have the same goal in mind, and we all give our best to make it happen.”

The new SAP S/4HANA platform creates a robust and scalable IT basis that is ready to enable future technological advances, automation and process improvements. Preparations for the S/4HANA project of the BLANCO group, which also belongs to the BLANC & FISCHER group, are already in full swing.



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