

CASE STUDY

Croda

How Croda seamlessly migrated from SAP BPC on Microsoft to SAP BPC on NetWeaver

Background information

Phase I: From Infor's FDC to SAP BPC – a new financial consolidation solution

Since 1999, Croda had been using Infor's FDC product to produce its group accounts. However, due to the growing demand for more advanced information and insight, coupled with the imminent termination of product support, it was decided to replace FDC.

What Croda really needed was a solution that would provide a robust, scalable way of collecting submissions and deliver a good level of multi-dimensional slice-and-dice analysis. It was also of prime importance that the new system would interface directly with Croda's existing ERP systems. By increasing the levels of automation and integration, Croda felt that there would be a significant shift away from the purely mechanical tasks of collation and data preparation towards more valuable activities such as analysis and decision making.

During late 2010, Croda embarked on a thorough evaluation exercise of suitable products on the market, making a decision to adopt SAP's Business Planning & Consolidation (SAP BPC) solution in the spring of 2011.

Once SAP BPC was selected as the replacement solution, EOH was chosen as the implementation partner. Croda had a long-standing working relationship with EOH and felt that they knew Croda's business better than any other consultancy and would be able to document and implement Croda's requirements quickly.

Working closely together, the Croda and EOH resources were able to build the application and develop the necessary reports required by the business. The SAP BPC system provided a single, reliable source of financial and non-financial data and the response from users was very positive. This was mainly down to the fact that Croda was now able to produce much more attractive reports with data that was of a much higher quality and as a result allowing more time for users to analyse their results.

Phase II: From SAP BPC on Microsoft to a NetWeaver platform

ABOUT THE CLIENT

Croda is a world leader in speciality chemicals and creates high performance ingredients and technologies relied upon by industries and consumers globally. The company has approximately 4,273 employees, and operates in 36 countries.

The business is split into three core market sectors: Personal Care; Life Sciences made up of Crop Care and Health Care and Performance Technologies made up of Coatings and Polymers; Geo Technologies; Home Care; Lubricants and Polymer Additives. There is also an Industrial Chemicals business area. In all areas of the business the focus is on developing and delivering innovative ingredients sustainably.

INDUSTRY

Chemical

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

- Alignment to Croda's IT roadmap
- One single server

EOH SOLUTION

- SAP Netweaver
- Like for like change
- EOH
 - Expertise, dedication & flexibility
 - Familiarity with the business
 - New, contractual support arrangement

BUSINESS IMPACT

- One single solution
- Smoother consolidation and optimise
- More stable system
- Multiple, dedicated EOH consultants



*Technology makes it possible...
People make it happen.*

The requirement

Croda's SAP BPC solution had been running on the Microsoft platform but in March 2017 it was decided to migrate to SAP NetWeaver. The decision was predominantly IT driven. From an end user perspective, the existing system worked well on Microsoft, but from a wider IT perspective, the system was not aligned to Croda's IT roadmap which centred around the SAP stack.

The solution

Once the decision had been made, EOH was engaged to compile the requirements for the new platform and to implement the migration. "EOH was our implementation partner for SAP BPC and gave us ongoing support post implementation. We could utilise EOH's knowledge from building the initial system from scratch and its familiarity with Croda's business and company culture so it was a natural choice to ask EOH to support us and guide us in this next phase," said Helen Knight, Group Systems & Reporting Accountant at Croda. The migration caused minimal disruption with no impact to the users. The new system has been accepted well by the user community.

The benefits

"Our assigned EOH consultant during the migration project quickly understood all our needs and was extremely professional and knowledgeable. We talked on a daily basis and she responded to all our queries promptly and efficiently. She worked really hard and was extremely flexible to make sure deadlines were met. EOH understood the impact of any delays and scaled up resource when needed to ensure that we went live on time."

The main benefit of achieving a unified system, centralised in a single place and fully integrated on the SAP stack, was achieved.

While the migration happened on a like for like basis, there were some improvements that prevailed. Overall, the system is more stable and no 'lock-outs' have been experienced. Background processes like consolidation and optimise have also become quicker.

Croda now has an application support contract with EOH and can use 'support credits' to rely on the expertise, knowledge and assistance of not just one but multiple EOH experts as and when needed.

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Croda is hoping to continue working with EOH in the future to unlock additional BPC functionality.

"Croda will continue to benefit from SAP BPC as it continues to develop its scope and push the application out to more of the user community. A truly collaborative approach was taken both during Phase 1 and 2 of the project and I very much look forward to EOH supporting and further strengthening our working relationship with Croda long into the future," said Kirit Patel, Regional Managing Director, UK & Europe, EOH.

About EOH

Founded in 1996 EOH UK has been making a tangible difference to the finance function for decades. We build trusted relationships by bolting deep business know-how and proven technology capabilities to our collaborative leadership values.

At the heart of our success is the recognition that building trust with clients is critical. We go to extraordinary lengths to understand the full picture, from current challenges to future goals, while inspiring clients to become more visionary across the system landscape.

Breaking away from legacy systems and streamlining processes is a bold and increasingly necessary step. Choosing EOH UK ensures you have a partner with you at every step of that journey.

Together we deliver the optimum technology solution – grounded in pragmatism but always with an eye on innovation. The result? A faster, leaner, smarter solution delivering returns as well as improved business performance.

Technology makes it possible, people make it happen.