



Partner



Aspen: ‘From 3 ERP systems and 15 applications to a streamlined pharma process with itelligence’

Aspen in Oss has been active in the production of pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) since 1923. Until 2013, it did so under the name of a different parent company. The South African Aspen took over the company in 2013, which meant the Dutch branch had to transfer all ERP systems and applications into a new integrated SAP platform. Together, itelligence and Aspen achieved this within the budget and planning.

Management summary

Company or Organization

Aspen Oss BV

Headquarters or Location

Oss, the Netherlands

Industry

Pharmaceutical

Products and Services

Production of Active
Pharmaceutical
Ingredients (APIs)

Employees

1000 (2016, NL)

Revenue or Budget

ZAR 35,600 million
(2016, worldwide)

Website

www.aspenoss.com

Implementation Partner

itelligence

BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

Company's Top Objectives:

- Fast transition to integrated ERP system
- Implementing best practices in pharmaceutical sector
- Having systems comply with strict requirement regulators (e.g. FDA)

Solution:

- SAP ECC with PP-PI, QM, MM, LE-WM, SD, PS, PM, FI/CO, SAP Cloud4Customer, SAP Process Orchestration, SAP Environment Health & Safety, SAP Open Text Invoice scanning, SAP Business Objects
- Linked to the following applications: APS-long term planning: INFOR, APS-scheduling: Wassermann WayRTS, MES: WERUM, Weighing: Mettler, LIMS: Labvantage, HR: RAET, Customs: STRATECH, Consolidation: COGNOS

Key Benefits:

- One version of the truth
- Fast transition through reuse of best practices in SAP
- Easy to upgrade
- Fully integrated and validated
- Processes under control from start to finish

TOP BENEFITS ACHIEVED



Lower TCO



Integrated



Meets FDA requirements

“itelligence knows the processes of pharmaceutical companies and, as a SAP specialist, can quickly implement the best practices in our sector, so that we meet the requirements of regulators like the FDA.”

Jeroen van den Broek, Manager Business Systems, Aspen Oss

Management summary

Company's Top Objectives

Solution

Transformation

Benefits

Future Plans

Continuing to produce drugs after acquisition

Aspen Pharma Group has been manufacturing generic drugs for over 160 years. In 2013, the company took over a production facility of APIs in Oss and all existing ERP systems and applications had to be transferred to a new system. Via SAP NL, Aspen came to itelligence for assistance. Successful projects at Synthon, Sanquin, and Perrigo convinced Aspen that itelligence could bring more pharmaceutical expertise than three large multinational SAP consultancy firms that also made an offer.

On behalf of itelligence, Frans Nieuweboer led the complex operation to replace the existing systems with an integrated SAP ERP system: "From the fiber optic cables in the ground to the financial

and logistical management of the organization, everything had to be replaced. In the last phase, we were working with a team of about 100 people, 30 of us and 70 from Aspen, to achieve a smooth transition. The business processes had to continue to run undisturbed to ensure the delivery of active substances for drugs (APIs)."

Jeroen van den Broek, project leader from Aspen, worked together with Nieuweboer in the project team: "With an extensive product portfolio and systems that must meet the requirements of, for instance, the FDA, this was a complex operation. That is why we wanted to work with a local partner in the same time zone and in our own language."

"With itelligence, we found a partner close to home that offered an attractive price-quality ratio."

Jeroen van den Broek, Manager Business Systems, Aspen Oss

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Company's Top Objectives

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Meeting FDA requirements with standard SAP

We were able to convince the headquarters in South Africa to work with a local partner, in this case itelligence. This is because we are convinced that the short lines, the specific pharmaceutical knowledge, and the local presence of the consultants would speed up the project given the hard deadline set by the 'disentanglement'.

"Because the new ERP solution needed to work as quickly as possible, we chose the standard options in SAP and the best practices for Pharma that itelligence bundled into a single implementation blueprint. This also means we comply with - international - rules, and it enabled us to complete the project within the tight deadlines and budgets we face. Moreover, because we consciously chose the SAP standards, we get fast upgrades through SAP. This is very convenient when laws and regulations change. We have only applied custom work in areas where we are truly unique in our processes".



Integrating 3 ERP systems and 15 applications

Management summary

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Solution

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One version of the truth with SAP ERP

Previously, Aspen used 3 ERP systems and 15 applications to process all critical company data, from purchase and production to logistics and sale. By integrating everything into SAP ERP, we have implemented a strict method that results in one version of the truth.

Approximately 500 employees are currently working with SAP ERP, of which 180 are working simultaneously. "For employees who have been using a certain method for 20 years, the change is quite big, especially because they do not immediately realize that more efficient methods are often possible. Because SAP with the default settings ensures our processes seamlessly connect to the best work processes in the pharmaceutical sector, I am very satisfied with the solution provided by itelligence."

KEY BENEFITS



500 employees work more efficiently



15 processes in 1 overview



Always 1 version of the truth

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Company's Top Objectives

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Future Plans

Meeting strict regulatory requirements

In the pharmaceutical sector, it is very important to comply with regulatory requirements such as those of the American FDA – the Food and Drug Administration. Van den Broek: “The advantage of SAP implementation by itelligence is that it uses the best practices from the industry, which means the system meets the requirements of regulators and the Good Practices they prescribe – the GxP. This ensures patient safety and product quality, and lets us check whether the data in our ERP system is valid.”

“We have tailored our processes to the best practices for pharmaceutical companies as much as possible. The consultants and the standard implementation method of itelligence quickly gained the trust of our business employees, so we did not need to have endless discussions about

custom work in the system. This way, the custom work was limited to a number of specific things that we needed for our processes. There was a large project team for transferring the master data files to SAP and training our employees – approximately 100 people in the final phase.”

We are very pleased with itelligence's method. The entire project was completed within the budget and the deadlines we were subject to. We now take care of the functional management of our applications ourselves, and we can still go to itelligence for technical management, so we have no problem finding specialists. Because SAP is open to third party applications, the system was also flexible enough to be linked to other applications we need for our business processes.”

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Complex ERP within budget and a tight deadline

itelligence also offers Aspen the possibility to deploy the already trained team in similar projects. Nieuweboer: "The acquired knowledge is well documented and we can quickly form a team that can repeat the implementation. This also allows us to help Aspen if they want to transfer other locations to SAP. This project proves that we can implement a complex ERP environment within time and budget constraints and the strict (inter) national rules that apply to the pharmaceutical sector."

Van den Broek agrees with Nieuweboer: "We are now using virtually all modules within SAP and have not experienced any significant delays or budget overruns. itelligence has made good on its promise and proved to be a very flexible partner. Our expectations were fully met. Now that everything is running smoothly and employees are starting to get used to the new system, we want to add another module for scanning our products. itelligence will undoubtedly be able to help us again with that."





The Best-Run Businesses Run SAP™

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