

**VAN LEEUWEN**



## ABOUT VAN LEEUWEN

Van Leeuwen is a global organisation specializing in steel pipes, and pipe and tube applications. With around 40 offices across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and America, it ensures materials are available anywhere in the world and customized wherever needed.

Van Leeuwen has specialist knowledge of sourcing, project management, logistics and stock planning with a yearly turnover of more than 600 million Euros. With around 1,100 employees they are considered market leaders in their segment.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Quick start of template project because of rich standard best practices in S4
- Integrated IS-Mill functionality within S4 offers great efficiency gains
- Real time transparency in stock levels enables better ATP insight
- First step in laying a solid foundation for "connecting" to suppliers and customers

# HARMONIZING BUSINESS PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS TO INCREASE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EFFICIENCY

## CHALLENGE

Van Leeuwen was looking to harmonize its business processes and technology applications in order to increase customer service and efficiency and to enable further digitalisation. Their existing system was heavily customised and was becoming unmanageable and costly to maintain. In particular the UK office was running on an older legacy system which needed replacing as soon as possible.

The company had made the decision to move to SAP S/4 HANA and needed an implementation partner who would have all the specialist knowledge and experience to help them.

With prior knowledge of SOA People and its extensive SAP integration expertise, Van Leeuwen was confident that the two companies would be a good cultural fit and that SOA People would bring the desired specialist knowledge combined with an end to end solution at the right price.

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## SELECTING SAP S/4 HANA

The SAP S/4 HANA platform is an entirely new generation of SAP Business Suite that would offer simplification, massively increased efficiency and easy-to-use dashboards. It gives users active decision support in real time that is based on data from both internal and external sources.

Van Leeuwen had identified SAP S/4 HANA as it had the capability to build in existing processes and industry solution versions that they required for their business, a key differentiator within S/4 HANA. In particular IS-Mill the milling solution gave them the extra value-added functionality they needed to work in the cutting, shot blasting and painting across various lengths and weights.

*The project went live in the UK in January 2017 and will be rolled out to France by the end of the year.*

## THE SOLUTION

It was clear early on that SOA People had vast knowledge on SAP S/4 HANA. Although much of the implementation was standard with minimal customised software or customer enhancements, some elements of the solution were very technical such as the IS-Mill solution but SOA People worked hard to ensure this available in S/4 HANA and it worked from day one.

The implementation was straightforward and enabled Van Leeuwen to follow specific processes which optimised the go live and subsequent roll out. To enhance the roll out to users Van Leeuwen undertook some change management activity.

The project went live in the UK in January 2017 and will be rolled out to France by the end of the year.

## WHAT'S NEXT

The next phase is rolling out S/4 HANA for Van Leeuwen's France operations which although similar to the UK will include specific business need enhancements for France.

## BENEFITS

**Greater visibility:** Van Leeuwen can easily track the status of its orders and deliveries as well as its order pipeline.

**Greater transparency:** Having one end to end solution given Van Leeuwen great transparency over its business processes.

**Connecting customers and suppliers:** The organisation can easily connect with customers and suppliers through its new system and everyone has improved visibility and enhanced automation of processes.

**More automated process:** There is now less manual effort required to achieve specific business processes so the teams can work more efficiently and more productively, saving time and providing the opportunity to reallocate manpower as required.

**Efficiency gains with IS-Mill functionality:** Having the capability to build in industry-specific versions required for their business was a key differentiator and gave them the extra functionality they needed to acquire efficiency gains.

**More efficient usage of data handling:** S/4 HANA enables the organisation to conduct powerful predictive analytics and simulations based on live real-time data, empowering immediate decision making.

**Easy to use dashboards all in one place:** easy to use and intuitive dashboards have accelerated user adoption and allow users to see everything all in one place on the desktop.



## SUMMARY

*"There is always a learning curve when two companies start to work together as they become aligned, but we worked well with SOA People and the teams on both sides enabled us to combine our knowledge and work well together to synchronise the solution."*

*"The combination of the business case of the new project and the eagerness of both teams made the whole project a success."*

John Van Schaijk,  
Corporate IT Manager, Van Leeuwen

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

- SAP S/4 HANA
- 175 users
- Roll out to Financials, Sales, Logistics, IS-Mill and Warehousing