



CASE STUDY

DGS gains performance data two days faster with harmonized business processes

Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations increases efficiency, speed
and visibility

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Manufacturers across the globe are rethinking how they operate and are digitally transforming, using advanced technologies and new approaches to accelerate operational efficiency and enterprise-wide growth. Embracing and going beyond the Industry 4.0 standard prepares them for the challenges ahead. DGS is no exception. It wanted a modern, cloud-based ERP platform where it can harmonize business processes, access relevant data faster and continuously improve. By adopting technological and cultural change, DGS is rethinking how it does business to help grow its competitive advantage.

Situation

Siloed ERP systems limit operational visibility

DGS is an innovative and international manufacturer of complex, high-quality die casting components with locations in Switzerland, China and the Czech Republic. For more than a decade, it was running an ERP system with different setups in each location, which was inefficient to maintain. The new integrated platform and harmonized processes allow DGS to better compare business and financial performance across countries.

The company's leadership wanted greater financial overview and control so it could improve efficiencies across its production sites. But it first needed to harmonize its business processes onto a single platform so it could access relevant and timely data to make better business decisions. Given our service offerings and international experience, DGS selected Avanade as a partner to help it upgrade to Microsoft Dynamics 365 on the Microsoft Azure cloud platform.

Solution

Business process integration on Microsoft Dynamics 365

Using a hybrid agile approach, we helped DGS implement Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations to harmonize its IT landscape and business processes – including finance, supply chain and automotive tasks – on the cloud. The platform also integrates with the company's manufacturing execution systems to help improve data quality and ensure proper processes. This information is significantly more accurate because it flows directly from about half of the company's equipment into the ERP systems and platforms.

"The manufacturing execution system integration is a big part of our digitalization. It's important that we have two systems that talk to each other and are connected by defining the interfaces and the processes," said Markus Abderhalden, chief financial officer at DGS. The functionality helps DGS do business more efficiently and with faster information to stay ahead of the game.

"It was a great achievement," added Abderhalden. "People said that we would never go live in one year. But we kept running towards the target. I'm most proud that we achieved the milestones to go live and did it in all locations at the same time."

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Results

Access to data two days faster

This modern cloud platform with Power BI reporting has laid the foundation for future optimizations and data analytics. Today, DGS is more resilient and ready for further growth. Additional benefits include:

- More integrated and continuous business processes, such as manufacturing, purchasing, sales and accounting, to help DGS achieve operational efficiency and agility
- Improved budgeting so resources are allocated where they are needed
- Enhanced reporting and controlling capabilities for leadership to evaluate the performance of different organizational resources and processes

“Avanade was great in helping us find the best way and tools to succeed,” said Urs Aemisegger, head of IT at DGS. “Their experience was invaluable because we had no previous experience with the cloud.”

DGS is now two working days faster in closing processes, which means financial managers get the information they need to make better, more qualified decisions two days sooner. The combination of analytics, automation and artificial intelligence on the updated Dynamics 365 platform can then help DGS maximize business value and agility. This will fuel the company's competitive advantage – and prepare it for whatever comes next.

About DGS

DGS Druckgussysteme AG is an international company based in St. Gallen. As a former die casting company of Bühler AG, we have over 50 years extensive experience in various die casting processes. In a dynamic market agility is crucial to success.

DGS is an innovative and international manufacturer of complex, high-quality die casting components. Our decades of experience and continuous investments in infrastructure, quality management, research and employees are just some of our success factors.

About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help make a human impact on our clients, their customers and their employees. We are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Avanade has 38,000 professionals in 25 countries, bringing clients our best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com

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