Advancement for Aberdare Cables
To enlighten the future of intelligent energy

Aberdare Cables is a technology-driven organisation, all the way from its innovative products to its IT systems. They implement the latest and greatest software to keep their position as a leader in their industry.

SAP S/4HANA was an opportunity for Aberdare to expand its technological base, enhance the efficiencies of their processes, and enable them to maintain their competitive edge in the marketplace.

Cables You Can Trust

Aberdare Cables is Africa's leading supplier of intelligent energy interconnection products and services. They have 2 manufacturing sites in South Africa, with Customer Service Centers across the country and in Maputo, Mozambique.

They employ 1,000 people who are highly trained and motivated, which makes them an employer of choice.

As a technology leader, they are driven by cutting-edge Research and Development (R&D), providing world-class innovative solutions, processes, products, and customer service.

In 2016, Aberdare Cables was acquired by a Chinese cable manufacturer, Hengtong. The Hengtong group operates in 120 countries, has 9 overseas manufacturing bases, and owns 5 brands, including Aberdare.

Project Highlights:

Successful on-schedule productive cutover with minimal downtime and post-go-live issues.

Executive adoption of the SAP Fiori Analytics from go-live.

Minimised change management by striking a balance between the adoption of new SAP S/4HANA innovations and leveraging existing processes and solutions.

Stable transition to SAP S/4HANA processes while maintaining continuity of existing integrations to third-party applications.

20 Years of data successfully migrated.

Mitigated technical risk using Proof of Concept approach.

The Challenge and Solution

The journey towards embracing SAP S/4HANA at Aberdare was propelled by a strategic convergence of key business imperatives. The decision to transition stemmed from a recognition of the transformative potential inherent in modernising their operations, guided by the pillars of cost efficiency, expanded functionalities, and heightened mobility opportunities.

The project approach demonstrated the collaborative capability and specialist skills of G3G and EPI-USE Labs, both Group Elephant companies. The approach brought together G3G's SAP-Qualified Partner-Packaged Solution methodology, SHIFT to SAP S/4HAHA, which combines SAP toolsets and specialised functional skills, and EPI-USE Labs' proprietary application management software, Data Sync Manager TM (DSM) and technical expertise, to provide insight, de-risk and accelerate the outcome. As part of the roadmap to SAP S/4HANA, a migration to the HANA database, a Unicode conversion, and an EHP upgrade were required. EPI-USE Labs' one-step approach using DSM made this a much quicker and easier process.

Raven Mahabeer, General Manager of Information Management at Aberdare, attested to the tangible benefits of this collaborative endeavour, emphasising the seamless execution of upgrades within compressed timelines and budget constraints. The resultant ecosystem now boasts robust technical support mechanisms and sophisticated IT management tools, fortifying Aberdare's operational resilience and adaptability.

For Aberdare, the culmination of this collective endeavour materialized in the form of a meticulously executed Proof of Concept (POC) in 2021, followed by a successful productive migration to SAP S/4HANA migration in 2023.

Shift to SAP S/4HANA

In our commitment to maximising the value derived from the transition to SAP S/4HANA, we integrate several innovation points throughout the project lifecycle. These innovations serve as pivotal enablers, fostering insights, driving cost efficiencies, and mitigating risks inherent in migration endeavors.

Pre-flight — Assess — Approach Recommendation — Verify — Transform

One of the key considerations when shifting to SAP S/4HANA is to minimise the impact on the business while at the same time introducing the benefits and innovations that are part of the solution. A cornerstone of our methodology lies in early adoption, which serves to validate the technical feasibility of the shift. This highlights risks and opportunities and ensures that business stakeholders are involved from the start, helping to build consensus for the full transformation.

"SAP S/4HANA Cloud has enhanced my efficiency and productivity because it empowers me to work from everywhere. It is like having your office in your pocket, thus providing me with more flexibility in my day-to-day tasks."

Jennifer Sun, Commercial Manager

The Outcome and Benefit

The transition of Aberdare Cable's existing SAP landscape to S/4HANA marks a strategic leap forward, harnessing the platform's advanced features, intuitive user interface, and real-time analytics capabilities. This upgrade ensured Aberdare's commitment to be a pioneer of technological innovation while future-proofing its IT infrastructure against evolving industry trends.

Traditionally, technological upgrades have been fraught with perceived risks such as prolonged Return on Investment (ROI), operational disruptions, and potential revenue downturns. However, with G3G's Shift to SAP S/4HANA methodology, we have diligently mitigated these risks, ensuring a seamless transition that allows our clients to maintain uninterrupted business operations. Just a month following the implementation, Aberdare achieved a remarkable milestone, setting a new record in terms of sales revenue. This early success not only underscores the efficacy of the transition but also highlights the tangible business benefits unlocked through SAP S/4HANA's transformative capabilities.

Across Aberdare's value chain, SAP S/4HANA has catalysed value creation, streamlining processes from order intake to the final payment stage. Moreover, from a mobility standpoint, Aberdare's warehouse team has embraced innovative apps deployed on the shop floor, replacing traditional scanners and enabling instantaneous label printing. This enhanced functionality translates into accelerated turnaround times for stock ordering and delivery, ultimately improving customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

With the expansive reach of Aberdare's warehouse network, the spectre of siloed data loomed large. However, the implementation of SAP S/4HANA has ushered in a new era of visibility and control for Nonhlanhla Ngwenya, Aberdare's Sales Admin and Distribution Manager. Armed with real-time insights across multiple warehouse locations, Nonhlanhla now navigates her responsibilities with unparalleled agility, making data-driven decisions at lightning speed.

The transition to SAP S/4HANA has also proven to be a game-changer in terms of operational efficiency. The reduction in maintenance requirements and the seamless resolution of issues signify a paradigm shift in user productivity and operational reporting.

Central to Aberdare's success narrative is the strategic implementation of a Proof of Concept (POC), a critical milestone that paved the way for a seamless and low-risk migration. The transition from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA was characterised by minimal downtime and uninterrupted business processes, a testament to meticulous planning, clear communication, and unwavering commitment from the project team.

The impact of SAP S/4HANA extends far beyond operational enhancements; it has positioned Aberdare as a technology leader poised for the next decade. The accolade of being named the Most Digitally Innovative Company in 2023 serves as a resounding endorsement of Aberdare's commitment to technological excellence, signaling a bold step forward into the digital future.

"From an SAP S/4HANA perspective, we have achieved value creation across the supply chain. G3G guided the process through to fulfillment. Aberdare had historical data that was a challenge to most service providers to convert into the S/4 environment whereby they were able to successfully migrate 20 years of data. What's coincidental was that the month after implementing S/4HANA, we had a record-breaking sales revenue month. This particular project just seamlessly integrated into our processes. "

Raven Mahabeer, General Manager:
Information Management at Aberdare Cables

Why journey to SAP S/4HANA with G3G?

- Access to solution and subject matter experts who can give advice on business, functional and technical matters best suited to your unique environment and ideal future landscape.
- Advice from SAP specialists for the speedy resolution of any migration issues related to the SAP technical environment.
- Access to Enterprise Architects who will generate your road map to move towards an Intelligent Enterprise, enabling you to become a more competitive player in the market.
- The hardware environments to successfully deploy and run your POC solution.
- Executive involvement to ensure that any challenges are resolved as a matter of urgency, not affecting the timelines and quality of work we have promised.
- Part of Group Elephant with significant productised IP to accelerate your move to S/4HANA, and the comfort of knowing that we've done it many times before.

SAP Gold Partner

SAP® Qualified Partner-Packaged Solution

G3G delivers SAP® solutions, services, and managed service support to empower organisations to streamline operations, reduce IT costs and improve reporting capabilities. Our team of experienced consultants uses unparalleled industry knowledge and expertise to deliver the powerful implementation and support solutions that drive sustainable business growth.

G3G has earned an enviable reputation for successfully addressing challenging technology-related issues for large, complex, multi-national organisations; inspiring businesses to use technology in creative and innovative ways to deliver meaningful and tangible results.

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