Life Science Business

MAKING A VALIDATED MOVE TO SAP S/4HANA

NTT DATA Business Solutions

SAP Platinum Partner
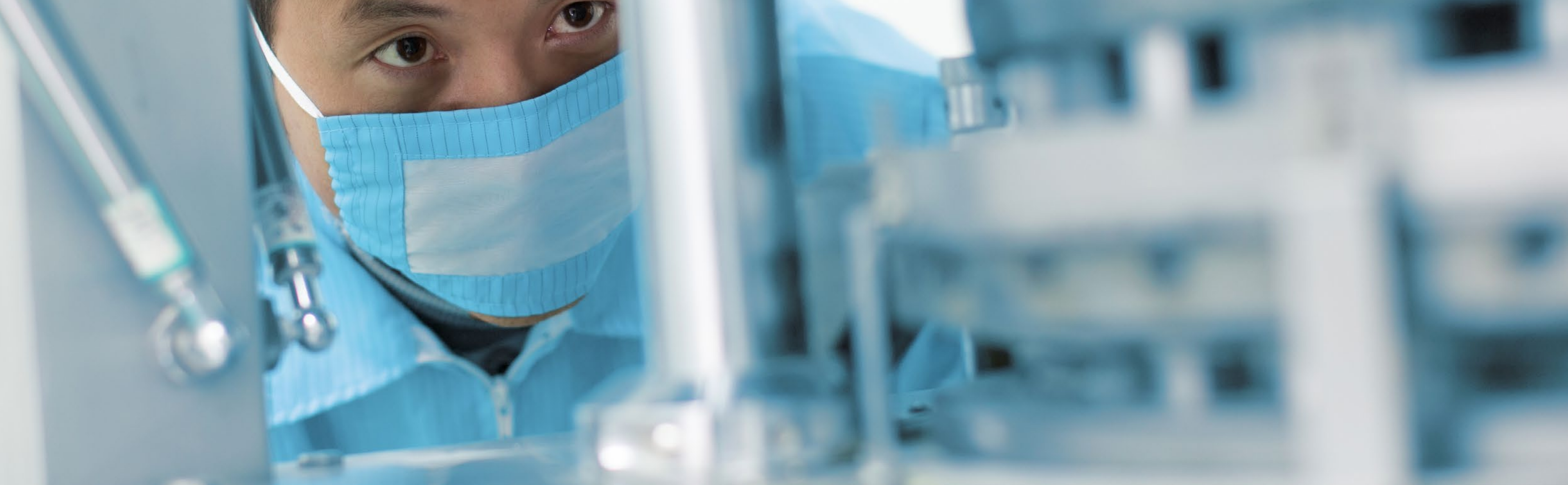
NTT DATA
Trusted Global Innovator

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A GUIDE FOR
LIFE SCIENCES BUSINESSES

This paper explains how transitioning to SAP's next-generation ERP platform, SAP S/4HANA, can empower pharma and life sciences companies to become industry leaders.

Transitioning to a new software platform requires care and expert guidance, and conversion from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA is a change that must be validated from GxP-perspective. Additionally, organizations running SAP ECC also face additional time pressure as support for this product runs out in 2027. To help you to face these challenges, this paper will also demonstrate how life sciences companies can organize a risk-free migration - a validated move.

A LIFE SCIENCE SOLUTION: SAP S/4HANA

Rising to the challenges and opportunities of Pharma 4.0 is only possible if your business has a strong digital core. This is where SAP S/4HANA comes in. SAP's modern ERP platform provides life sciences businesses with real-time insight into their entire supply chain, allowing leaders to make data-driven decisions, optimize their manufacturing process and comply with increasingly challenging regulations.

Time is running out. 2027 will be here quite soon and when organisations leave a system conversion to the last minute we see that the impact on their resources is higher.

Ruud Nieuweboer, Life Sciences Expert, NTT DATA Business Solutions

WHY LIFE SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS TRUST SAP S/4HANA

SAP S/4HANA is an incredibly diverse platform with many benefits, here are just some of the reasons it's trusted by others.

Proven
SAP S/4HANA has been running and continuously developed since 2015. It's a highly stable platform trusted by thousands of enterprise-level businesses across the globe.

Future-Proof
SAP S/4HANA is designed to work with the latest business technology, including Internet of Things devices, big data lakes, and machine learning algorithms.

Connected
SAP systems can be scaled to support an unlimited number of devices, allowing you to digitize your entire plant floor and make decisions based on real-time data instead of waiting for processes to complete.

Fast
S4/HANA is designed to process huge amounts of data and generate real-time insights. Greater processing speeds allow organizations to be more responsive, whilst also predicting the future.

We believe that the SAP S/4HANA system is capable of all your current business processes, and we think that moving now will give you a headstart on innovation.

**Ruud Nieuweboer,
Life Sciences Expert,
NTT DATA Business Solutions**

CONVERSION CONCERNS

Converting to a new ERP platform can be challenging, so it's natural to be cautious. Decision-makers are often concerned about converting to a new software platform. What if there are bugs, or there's little support documentation? Are there enough trained experts in the market to solve problems or build custom solutions?

Thankfully, with SAP solutions these aren't concerns you need to be worried about.

WHY CONVERT NOW

Moving to a new ERP is not a decision to be taken lightly. The overall cost is a big consideration, and the conversion requires the cooperation of multiple departments and significant resources and time to train colleagues on how to operate the new software. Factor in the extra tasks of compiling and transferring data from multiple legacy systems, business downtime during the cut-over, and post-deployment testing, and it's easy to see why so many companies procrastinate and put off software upgrades until they're absolutely essential.

However, time is running out and converting can give you a competitive advantage in the fast changing technological space. SAP support for legacy ERP products, including ECC, is scheduled to end in 2027. This may seem like a long time away, however, the complete conversion process can be lengthy, from project initiation to go-live, and skilled software engineers can be hard to recruit toward the end of a product's life.

This means that choosing the provider, and approach, that will save the most time is usually the best decision.

01

Can Our Data Be Migrated Safely?
Shifting to SAP S/4HANA is a process of conversion, rather than migration, so historical data can be safely and completely preserved.

02

Can We Add Future Enhancements?
SAP S/4HANA has been a fully developed suite since 2015. This means it's now supported by an extensive library of best practices and case studies, meaning that everyone in the SAP ecosystem, from support teams, implementation partners like NTT DATA Business Solutions, and end-users, can be trained on how to use the platform to its full potential.

03

Will We Be Able To Stay Compliant With All Regulations & Requirements?
Our implementation teams know how important GxP compliance is, as well as additional regulations and frameworks, such as 21CFR Part 11 and Eudralex Annex 11. We will ensure that you have no issues with compliance.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRANSITION PATH

Brownfield
In most cases, a brownfield approach is the best way to organize a conversion. In this approach, your existing SAP ERP is converted and all its existing functionality and data are retained. The process happens largely in the background. The back end of your systems is upgraded first, with all of your current and historical data migrated and converted to the HANA database format. The front end, the user interface, changes when you are ready.

Two alternative approaches are available for specific scenarios:

Greenfield
A new system is developed from scratch, with old processes and data left behind. This forces businesses to rethink long-established processes and modernize their workflow.

Hybrid
The old system is converted to allow the back end to run on SAP S/4HANA, while the user interface and processes stay the same. Processes are then redesigned one by one as they are needed and a selective data transition process is started.

A system conversion is a non-disruptive and safe way to SAP S/4HANA.

Conversion tools are proven, stable and reliable.

A conversion is less time-intensive than any other transition option.

A conversion protects your investment in the ERP software.

A conversion has much less impact on daily business than any other option.

A conversion enables for a smooth transition to SAP S/4HANA from a Validation (CSV) perspective.

All existing business processes in the ERP system work as-is or with optimized functionality in the SAP S/4HANA system.

OUR CONVERSION PROCESS

System conversions are carried out by a special team within NTT DATA Business Solutions, known as the Conversion Factory. This team is SAP Certified, and includes more than 200 specialists who work with regional teams across the globe and provide around-the-clock support. Working with our colleagues at the Conversion Factory, we can provide a fixed, pre-determined price to customers, as well as a fixed timeframe which is usually between three and six months.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF CONVERTING WITH US

1:1 Conversion
As we are not implementing an out-of-the-box platform, our teams can preserve all of your existing business processes, ensuring that your current workflow can continue in the new SAP S/4HANA environment, thus minimizing the impact on URS, SOPs, and instructions.

Reduce Validation Effort and Business Impact
We are acutely aware of the need to minimize business disruption as much as possible, and factor that into our implementation plans. We also use a clear and guided assessment to understand the impact and risk of moving from ECC to SAP S/4HANA, and our in-house validation team supports life science-specific documentation for a risk-free migration.
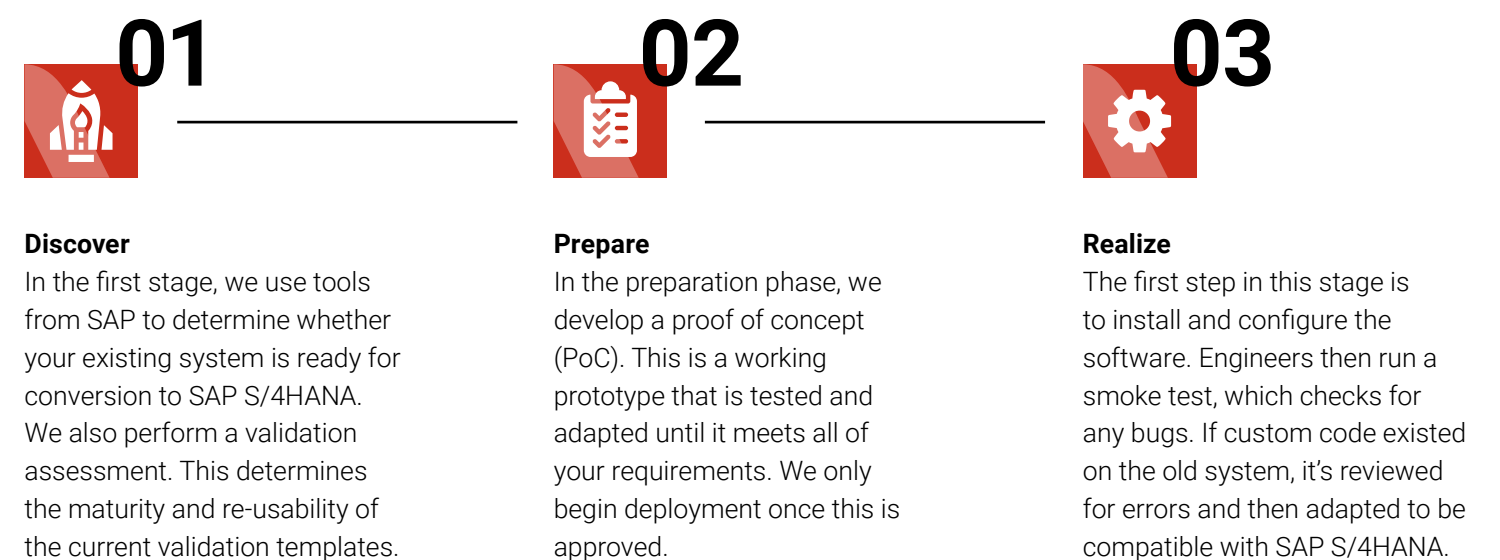
Predictable Costs
We can provide fixed price conversions, delivered over an agreed timeframe.

Data Integrity
We assure data integrity of most impacted and GxP critical data.

HOW CONVERSION WORKS – STEP BY STEP

All conversion projects, whether greenfield or brownfield, consist of three phases:

01

Discover
In the first stage, we use tools from SAP to determine whether your existing system is ready for conversion to SAP S/4HANA. We also perform a validation assessment. This determines the maturity and re-usability of the current validation templates.

02

Prepare
In the preparation phase, we develop a proof of concept (PoC). This is a working prototype that is tested and adapted until it meets all of your requirements. We only begin deployment once this is approved.

03

Realize
The first step in this stage is to install and configure the software. Engineers then run a smoke test, which checks for any bugs. If custom code existed on the old system, it's reviewed for errors and then adapted to be compatible with SAP S/4HANA.

Now that the conversion is almost complete, the client is given access so they can perform the user acceptance testing.

Summary
A validated move with NTT DATA Business Solutions means that every process is planned and checked. In other words, validation is completely integrated into our process, which is safe and proven, with no risk of surprises. With us, you can rely on the security of a fixed cost and a fixed delivery schedule, meaning that nothing needs to be left to chance.

If you're ready to explore how your life sciences business can thrive, contact the team at NTT DATA Business Solutions today.

Your Partner – NTT DATA Business Solutions
NTT DATA Business Solutions has more than 25 years of experience in the life sciences industry. As an early adopter of life sciences solutions, we are highly experienced with validated software implementations, Validated Managed Services, and Validated Managed Cloud. We are also recognized by SAP as an expert in conversions for life sciences businesses, and we hold platinum partner status.

Additionally, we're proud to deliver risk-free, stable, and proven solutions that can guarantee end-to-end compliance.

SAP® Qualified
Partner-Packaged Solution

SAP Pinnacle Awards 2021 Finalist

Our Track Record with SAP S/4HANA
NTT DATA Business Solutions has delivered more than 480 SAP S/4HANA projects, across 28 countries. In 2021, we were a finalist in the SAP Pinnacle Awards for the SAP S/4HANA Movement Partner of the Year award, for the second year in a row. This is in addition to 22 other awards and certifications that we were also able to earn in 2020.

In early 2021, we won the SAP APJ Award for Partner Excellence for SAP S/4HANA Movement. We are also a Global SAP-Certified Provider of SAP S/4HANA Solution Operations and a Global SAP-Certified Partner of Hosting Operations.

We Transform. SAP® Solutions into Value
Digital transformation helps companies reach their full potential – if the underlying technologies work for the people using them! At NTT DATA Business Solutions, we design, implement, manage and continuously enhance SAP solutions to make them work for companies – and for their people.

www.nttdata-solutions.com

Your next step
Contact our specialists in your local area today.
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07/2021