

From the conference room to the go-live with not one but two production lines – agile, focused and with impressive motivation

Implementation of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain Management on-prem

The BMZ Group has been an innovation leader in cross-industry lithium-ion battery systems for 30 years. The Group is headquartered in Karlstein in the Frankfurt am Main region and has additional production facilities in China, Poland, North Macedonia, Brazil and the USA as well as branches in Japan, Hong Kong, the UK and France.

In September 2023, the BMZ Group opened its production site in North Macedonia, where more than 60 production lines are to be built by 2028. Parts of the production from Poland and Germany will gradually be relocated to this new site. In October, BMZ commissioned Sven Mahn IT, which had already carried out a Dynamics 365 carve-out project for the German production site BMZ Germany GmbH in parallel, to implement Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain Management at the new plant.

The aim was to introduce processes similar to those in Germany and Poland using the Dynamics 365 line. For strategic reasons, BMZ decided not to go directly to the cloud, but to host the system locally in Germany.



Initially, Sven Mahn IT created a copy of the master data company account and set up the framework parameters. The local partner Axapta-Masters implemented the finance localization. The data was then enriched with products. The bill of materials and associated routings for the first production line were set up.

It was not only necessary to adapt the language, but also the parts list to the local production strategy. In contrast to the other locations, production in North Macedonia is discrete. Other tasks included the infrastructural connection to the data center in Germany and MDE device management. The use of Power BI and the displays on the production lines and goods inwards enabled both the optimization of processes and the avoidance of paper.

The entire implementation project was characterized by a phase-based approach with regard to the functionalities. Everyone involved agreed to concentrate completely on the defined scope. This laid the foundation for a smooth and streamlined project.



The BMZ project team and Sven Mahn IT finalized the system together in two Conference Room Pilots (CRP). They were significantly supported by Sören, the test management and test execution assistance tool developed by Sven Mahn IT, and by using the existing test cases from the SMIT TestKit test case library.

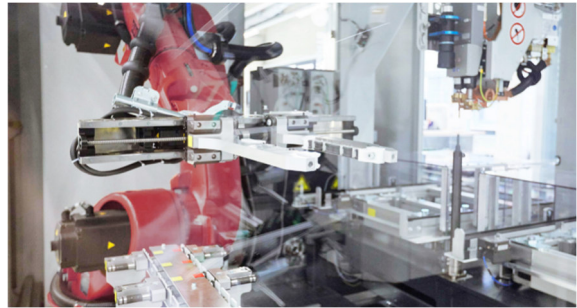
“As in our first joint project, we again experienced Sven Mahn IT as a competent partner who led the roll-out to success with optimal planning and agile project organization – on time and within budget. The CRPs were a decisive factor in this. The use of the Sören tool saved a lot of time and made work easier, as well as ensuring optimum quality assurance.”

Stefan Weisenberger, Group CIO BMZ Holding

After preparatory and on-the-job training for employees on site, Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain Management went live at the North Macedonia site at the end of March 2024 with the end-to-end process from goods receipt to shipment, including production control and product program planning – contrary to expectations, directly with two production lines instead of just one.

“Two lines in one go. This was only possible thanks to the high motivation of the internal users. We attended the go-live on site in North Macedonia and were extremely impressed by how quickly the system was accepted by the employees. This has made a fundamental contribution to the success!”

Sven Mahn, CEO Sven Mahn IT



The BMZ Group and Sven Mahn IT still have a number of joint projects in the pipeline so that all company locations can fully exploit the huge potential of Dynamics 365. Poland, the USA and Brazil are also to be integrated into the cloud. The roll-out of Dynamics CRM and the expansion of the web stores are also planned.