

How smartShift Supported **Evonik** to Modernize and Migrate 20+ Years of Custom Development to SAP S/4HANA in Just 5 Weeks!

4.4 Million

Lines of code migrated

350,000

Coding issues optimized



“We’ve achieved our SAP S/4 HANA goals in full—and smartShift did a lot of the heavy lifting. We have addressed a lot of our technical debt and are better prepared to enhance and modernize our system further on S/4HANA.”

Bernhard Wunsch,

SAP Development – Project Lead NexGen ERP Custom Code, Evonik

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable, and sustainable solutions for customers.

Highlights

Challenges

- Modernizing existing SAP environment to S/4HANA
- Taking a brownfield approach to minimize business disruption
- Looking to go-live in S/4 HANA within 12 months
- Maintaining business velocity throughout the program

Solution

Evonik leveraged smartShift Intelligent Automation™ to:

- Analyze their existing environment and understand the need for code adjustment and cleanup
- Streamline/Optimize decades of custom code quickly and accurately
- Modernize code for better stability, security, performance, and cloud-readiness
- Deliver automated code migration to SAP S/4HANA in weeks
- Reduce testing burden and accelerate test cycles

Results

- Complex business change delivered in 12 months
- Seamless go-live for 15,000 users
- Technical code remediation buttoned up in 5 weeks
- 69k custom objects remediated
- 4MM lines of code migrated
- 350k coding issues cleaned up
- Project timeline facilitated by smartShift's automation
- Maintained business velocity due to automated dual maintenance

Challenge

Migrating decades of in-house developments to SAP S/4HANA without disrupting business operations

Evonik was ready to move into overdrive and transform its existing ERP to SAP S/4HANA. The benefits were convincing: not least, to enable greater digitalization, open up future opportunities, and create business processes that were best-in-class.

But the challenge ahead was immense

Evonik's legacy environment was over 25 years old and highly customized. More recently, all the different ERP systems that belonged to different Evonik companies were consolidated under one central ERP.

Faced with modernizing such a complex legacy landscape, Evonik had to determine the best approach. Evonik decided to take the brownfield route, because it reduced time to value and created minimal disruption to their existing business processes.

But they used the opportunity to go further. At the same time as converting the existing system to a modern S/4HANA environment, Evonik focused on harmonizing key business processes to increase efficiency. In addition, they cleaned-up and modernized their custom code base to make the business ready to integrate future innovations. With their goals defined, Evonik set themselves an ambitious 12-month deadline to go-live in S/4HANA.

smartShift Intelligent Automation™ provides Evonik with cutting-edge answers to traditional SAP modernization problems.

Code Optimization

To support Evonik's business goals and make it easier to benefit from future SAP innovations, smartShift used its solution to optimize and modernize Evonik's code base. In total, smartShift addressed more than 350,000 issues in this system, cleaning up and optimizing code for ABAP Cloud compatibility, security, code stability, performance, maintainability, and standardization.

S/4HANA Conversion

In a matter of weeks, smartShift delivered an automated migration to S/4HANA—first doing runs on two sandbox systems and then the development system—with all the optimized custom code running on them. The sandbox systems enabled Evonik to experiment with all kinds of data and scenarios, without fear of disrupting business operations.

Dual Maintenance

While the main project was running, Evonik needed its existing SAP system to support ongoing operations—and naturally needed to continue to support that environment. During that period, their core system went through two major releases and one minor release. Thanks to smartShift's Retrofit Solution, the synchronization of the environments was taken care of with very low manual work required from the team.

Accelerated Test Cycles

When it came to testing the new environment, smartShift made the process less onerous. Because smartShift's code transformation and migration are fully transparent, based on algorithms, and clearly documented, error rates were minimal, testing was more targeted, and test cycles were faster. Thanks to smartShift's automations and support—coupled with Evonik's attention to detail in planning and testing—the company's challenging conversion timeline was successfully met.

Solution

Using smartShift Intelligent Automation™ to remediate code faster and build a stable system fit for the future

To save time, save money, and minimize risk, Evonik brought smartShift onboard. Instead of making hundreds of thousands of code adjustments by hand, Evonik kept an eye on smartShift as it seemed to be much more appropriate and convincing for a modern industrial company. smartShift Intelligent Automation™ did much of the heavy lifting, quickly and accurately.

First, smartShift's analysis uncovered how much coding was in Evonik's system, how many S/4HANA adjustments needed to be made, how coding could be optimized, and which code could be safely decommissioned. Through its analysis, **smartShift uncovered 69,000 custom objects requiring code remediation and over 4 million lines of code to migrate.**

Next, smartShift made this avalanche of work possible with its industry-leading Intelligent Automation™ and automated most of the required code streamlining/optimization for Evonik. The solution uses algorithmic transformations to make every custom object within the system as S/4HANA compliant as possible.

Results

Unlocking the benefits of S/4HANA faster and more cost-effectively

With smartShift Intelligent Automation™, Evonik was able to deliver complex business changes within a remarkable timeframe of just 12 months. Many of the heavy technical tasks—such as coding streamlining/optimization and architecture improvements—that would ordinarily require months of manual labor were seamlessly swept up by smartShift inside of 5 weeks.

Some 69,000 in-house custom development objects were remediated, 4 million lines of code were migrated, and 350,000 coding issues were optimized and modernized. All with no disruption or fuss.

The new system—and its 15,000 users—went live without a hitch over a single, problem-free weekend.

With SAP S/4HANA now in place, Evonik can even better access future-oriented technology such as embedded analytics, Fiori apps and artificial intelligence, and create best-in-class processes that make them more efficient, more productive, and more profitable.



“We used three retrofits by smartShift, which enabled us to fully concentrate on the new S/4HANA landscape. All old changes from the maintenance landscape were reintegrated into the S/4HANA coding fully and automatically by smartShift.”

Benedikt Martens,
NexGen ERP Program Lead IT, Evonik

Want to save time and costs transforming your SAP systems?

[Schedule a call](#)