

# ROCKWELL COLLINS CASE STUDY



*“Impress for EPM streamlined our project management efforts. It bridged SAP with MS Project, taking into consideration our unique requirements and creating an improved, synchronized and highly collaborative environment. Impress for EPM helps us achieve accurate planning and excellent project performance.”*

— Bruce Hegenderfer, Rockwell Collins, Solutions Architect

Rockwell Collins, headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is a leader in design, production, and support of communication and aviation electronics for customers world-wide. Founded in 1933, Rockwell Collins operates from more than 60 locations in 27 countries, and employs 17,000 people. The electronic communication equipment produced by Rockwell Collins can be found in the cockpit of almost every passenger plane. What’s more, almost 70% of all US and allied military communication is transmitted by Rockwell Collins.

## CHALLENGE

At Rockwell Collins, precise and successful project execution is vital. At any given time, the company simultaneously manages hundreds of projects that vary from research and development to design. To remain on-time and on-budget, project data is managed and analyzed in multiple systems—project managers, planners and engineers rely on MS Project for detailed planning, scheduling, and resource management, while financial analysts use SAP to run costs, manage budgeting and materials, and calculate earned value.

Both systems are highly customized to Rockwell Collins’ unique needs, and both have multiple users. MS Project is used by several thousand licensed planners and engineers, while SAP is used by hundreds of “super users.”

While Rockwell Collins found the two systems to be co-dependant and highly complementary, they lacked the ability to easily and reliably exchange information. Because the company’s two critical applications were not linked, project managers and SAP “super users” were not in-synch, and were forced to operate and manage two systems at the same time. Daily activities were manually entered into both systems, requiring hours of input time and often resulting in process variation, and multiple project inaccuracies. In order to increase efficiency and productivity, Rockwell Collins concluded that its two disparate systems needed to be integrated.

## SOLUTION

Rockwell Collins analyzed a number of alternatives, and even considered developing a custom integration in-house. Ultimately, they found this option to be expensive and risky due to development challenges, high project costs, and lack of internal development resources.

After careful consideration Rockwell Collins chose Impress for EPM (Enterprise Project Management). Impress for EPM is a packaged integration application that is optimized for

### Industry:

Aerospace & Defense

### Goal:

A streamlined project scheduling environment through the integration of MS Project with SAP, allowing project stakeholders to continue using their system of choice while ensuring that both systems remain up-to-date and accurate.

### Challenge:

Automate the synchronization of project information across highly customized Microsoft Project and SAP systems, to create a robust scheduling environment, improve project management, and eliminate costly and time-consuming data entry.

### Solution:

Impress for EPM

### Results:

- Created an automated and highly coordinated project management environment
- Eliminated costly and time-consuming manual data entry
- Reduced process variations by improving the accuracy of data
- Created accurate, shared project data for project managers to access in MS Project and for financial analysts to access in SAP
- Improved collaboration between planners and analysts



bridging SAP PM/PS with Microsoft Project. It synchronizes project-related data between the systems, “automating-away” the costly and time-consuming data entry required to keep both systems consistent. After talking to companies already using Impress for EPM, and testing the solution on its own, Rockwell Collins implemented Impress for EPM to bridge SAP and MS Project and allow complete synchronization of the two applications.

### BENEFITS

Impress for EPM allows for a seamless and automated flow of information between MS Project and SAP. Projects can be created in either one of the applications and then uploaded into the other without the need to manually re-enter redundant information. Activities and projects are regularly synchronized, and each application is updated with accurate, real-time data, allowing precise scheduling and project management. For Rockwell Collins this smooth integration brought multiple gains:

- Created a robust project scheduling environment
- Eliminated costly and time-consuming manual entry
- Reduced process variations
- Created accurate, shared project data for project managers to access in MS Project and for financial analysts to access in SAP
- Improved collaboration between planners and analysts

Due to the successful initial implementation of Impress for EPM, Rockwell Collins is now planning to expand the scope of information and processes that are integrated. Rockwell Collins plans to deploy Impress for EPM at its subsidiaries in the UK, France, Germany, and other European countries.

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