



A checkup of the SGL Group's IT strategy



Customer

SGL Group – The Carbon Company

Industry

Biosciences and Chemicals

Company profile

The SGL Group – The Carbon Company – is the world's leading manufacturer of products like carbon, graphite, and composites for use in the industry and for aviation and space technologies.

Role of ec4u

ec4u established and analyzed the status of existing systems in relevant departments. Using this as the foundation, ec4u developed strategic scenarios and followed-up with a market evaluation to determine other cost and performance aspects

Benefits

Following the revamped IT strategy for specific areas of application, the SGL Group's IT management unit is now capable of fully handling the needs of the respective technical departments. Furthermore, current and valid market data could be included in the long-term budgeting process.

The aim was to assess the Group's existing IT strategy and perform a checkup of certain areas of application to adapt the strategy to ongoing requirements of technical departments.

The operations of the SGL Group comprise three global business units – Performance Products, Graphite Materials & Systems, and Carbon Fibers & Composites. Its corporate strategy is to concentrate on its core competencies and develop new markets.

MAXIMUM HOMOGENEITY OF IT LANDSCAPE

Most elements of the IT landscape at SGL are based on an SAP R/3 system ("SGL ONE") and essentially homogeneous. The project's goal was to check the areas not mapped by SGL ONE and revamp the strategy as necessary.

STEP ONE: ANALYZE THE STATUS QUO

The assessment focused initially on selected fields of application for the business units, in terms of functional and technical requirements, followed by an evaluation as to whether the requirements were implementable. This involved investigating and quantifying the technical and commercial impact of the required functions.

MARKET ASSESSMENT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF IT STRATEGY

A market study covering certain fields of application of SGL was conducted in order to further validate the functional and system requirements and account for the market trends in the strategy. Another goal was to seek sourcing alternatives, for which a tender was issued for specific integration services.

ASSIST THE SOURCING PROCESS

ec4u assisted with the sourcing process to:

- Record, evaluate, and formulate the functional requirements of specific areas of application for a tender
- Define performance specifications and tender documents
- Rank potential integrators in terms of measurable and traceable criteria
- Issue a recommendation

RESULTS APPLIED TOWARDS AN IT STRATEGY CHECKUP

The findings of the status quo and the results of the sourcing process served as the basis for a

checkup of the IT strategy for certain areas of application at SGL Carbon. This effort presented and weighed the technical and financial impact of the respective alternatives. ec4u assisted the SGL Group through this effort to work out the IT strategy for the applicable area.

"ec4u applied its knowledge of the market and systems to decisively evaluate the market and checkup on our IT strategy."

Christian Pagel, Vice President, Corporate Business System
SGL Carbon GmbH