



ERP CONSIDERATIONS

There are many reasons to implement an ERP, Enterprise resource planning. Among them is the need for an end-to-end view of your business from business planning thru manufacturing onto cash management. For all of the benefits that can be achieved, there are also many pitfalls in implementing an ERP, such as complexity, management commitment, and scope creep.

First and foremost an ERP system is about the business not the technology used. Signet Management can help your business realize its potential by bringing the experience in both business and technology.

While considering which of the many ERP systems to implement an important first step is to define how much and which business functions you want to automate and map this to potential solutions. You will want a system that fits your company today and in the immediate future.

Here is brief checklist of areas to think about:

- Manufacturing:
 - o Engineering
 - o Bills Of Material
 - o Scheduling
 - o Capacity
 - o Workflow Management
 - o Quality Control
 - o Lot Tracking
 - o Cost Management
 - o Manufacturing Process
 - o Manufacturing Projects
 - o Manufacturing Flow

- Supply chain management: (order to cash)
 - o Inventory
 - o Order Entry
 - o Purchasing
 - o Product Configurator
 - o Supply Chain Planning
 - o Supplier Scheduling
 - o Inspection Of Goods
 - o Claim Processing
 - o Commission Calculation



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- Financials:
 - o General Ledger
 - o Cash Management
 - o Accounts Payable
 - o Accounts Receivable
 - o Promotion/Deduction Management
 - o Fixed Assets

- Project management:
 - o Costing
 - o Billing
 - o Time And Expense
 - o Performance Units
 - o Activity Management

- Human resources:
 - o Payroll
 - o Training
 - o Time And Attendance
 - o Rostering
 - o Benefits Management

- Customer relationship management:
 - o Sales And Marketing
 - o Commissions
 - o After Sale Service
 - o Customer Contact And Call Center Support

In addition the ERP application should provide for the following:

- Data Warehouse - and various self-service interfaces for customers, suppliers, and employees
- Access control - user privilege as per authority levels for process execution
- Security - ability to encrypt private data
- Customization - to meet the extension, addition, change in process flow



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Nice to haves are:

- Web browser interface
- Support for client's preferred hardware platform
- Software as a service solution, a.k.a, salesforce.com
- Management reporting
- Audit support

Signet Management can help you though this checklist, vendor selection, and project management of the implementation. With our experience we can also help reengineer your business processes to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.