



**NASA IMPLEMENTS SAP for
STREAMLINED, INTEGRATED &
COMPLIANT FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

NASA's unique mission of exploration, discovery and innovation has preserved the United States' role as both a leader in world aviation and as the preeminent spacefaring nation. Success begets growth, and with growth comes complexity. Since its inception in 1958, NASA has grown considerably and today employs more than 18,000 civil servants across nine field centers and numerous contractor-operated facilities throughout the United States. While advancing the nation's science and technology agenda remains NASA's foremost mission, the agency also must adhere to strict performance and accountability measures by carefully monitoring and controlling limited budgetary resources.

NASA's financial and human resources management systems process millions of transactions annually, with several thousand employees as active users. Lacking a transaction-based, integrated system for the entire agency, NASA centers relied on their own unique systems to support financial management activities. As a result, NASA's financial and business management environment was comprised of decentralized, non-integrated systems characterized by enterprise and center-unique policies, procedures, and practices.

In general, data formats were not standardized, automated systems were not integrated or interfaced, and on-line financial information was not readily available to NASA managers. In addition, the cost to maintain these disparate systems was very high since both data and software were replicated at each center.

To improve and modernize the agency's financial management and accounting processes, NASA implemented its Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP). The goal of IFMP is to streamline and standardize business processes, and to acquire and implement an integrated financial management system throughout NASA.

Working closely with NASA and in partnership with a large systems integrator, a team of Optimal SAP consultants developed and implemented a standardized, centralized financial accounting system based on SAP technology to replace the 10 disparate accounting systems used by the individual NASA centers.

An integral component of NASA's Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP), the new NASA-wide SAP-based financial management system helps NASA streamline financial management and accounting operations and improve project management processes.

As a result of the on-time, on-budget development and delivery of an SAP-based financial management solution, NASA now enjoys an agency-wide, fully integrated, federally compliant financial management system capable of implementing full cost accounting. The system dramatically improves business processes by minimizing data redundancy, standardizing information and electronic data exchanges, processing and recording financial events effectively and efficiently, and ensuring consistent information is available to all managers throughout the agency.

QUICK FACTS

Government

- ▶ Agency: NASA
- ▶ Location: 15 US Centers/Facilities
- ▶ Capital Budget: US \$18.7+ billion
- ▶ Employees: 18,000+ employees, 40,000+ contractors

Challenges

- ▶ Existing, numerous, non-integrated, non-standardized financial management systems resulting in slow, inefficient accounting and financial management operations
- ▶ Lack of vital systems integration preventing real-time, end-to-end, visibility and hindering project and agency performance management
- ▶ Solution and data redundancies causing slow, inefficient reporting processes and expensive maintenance costs
- ▶ Absence of governance model & standardized business and reporting processes stifling efficiency and productivity

Solution:

- ▶ SAP ERP Core Financials; SAP ERP Central Component (ECC) 6.0

Why Optimal Solutions & SAP

- ▶ Comprehensive, proven, scalable financial management solution
- ▶ Deep expertise with SAP ERP and financial management best practices

Implementation Highlights

- ▶ Collaborated closely with customer to develop a comprehensive assessment of business needs; design security and control profiles; identify training needs and data conversion strategies; define a detailed technical architectural blueprint; perform gap assessment and develop strategy for managing risks; and develop plan and schedule for system implementation
- ▶ Implemented a single, scalable, consolidated, fully integrated SAP financial management system for use across all NASA centers/facilities
- ▶ Leveraged SAP best practices to redesign or enhance NASA accounting and financial management business processes
- ▶ Eliminated 10 inefficient, costly, disparate, geographically dispersed legacy accounting systems
- ▶ Completed implementation on time and within budget

Benefits

- ▶ Single, integrated financial management system provides accurate, real-time reporting for faster, more strategic business decisions and provides standardized processes and reports supporting full-cost management
- ▶ Compliance with Federal Financial Management System Requirements (FFMSR), Federal Accounting Standards (FAS), and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA)
- ▶ Flexible, future-proof financial management system leverages best practices, lowers TCO, & drives sustainable efficiency and productivity gains