

Success Story | Selective Data Transition to SAP S/4HANA

# Pedal to the Metal: accelerate to SAP S/4HANA

**The BMW Group relies on Nativion for its SAP S/4HANA Transformation from SAP ECC**

With a size of more than 30 TB, the BMW Group's SAP ECC system had reached its capacity limits. As it was time to act, it was also the right time to move to a new SAP S/4HANA system – but not without select valuable historical data. Nativion transformation professionals supported the project with their expertise in Selective Data Transition.



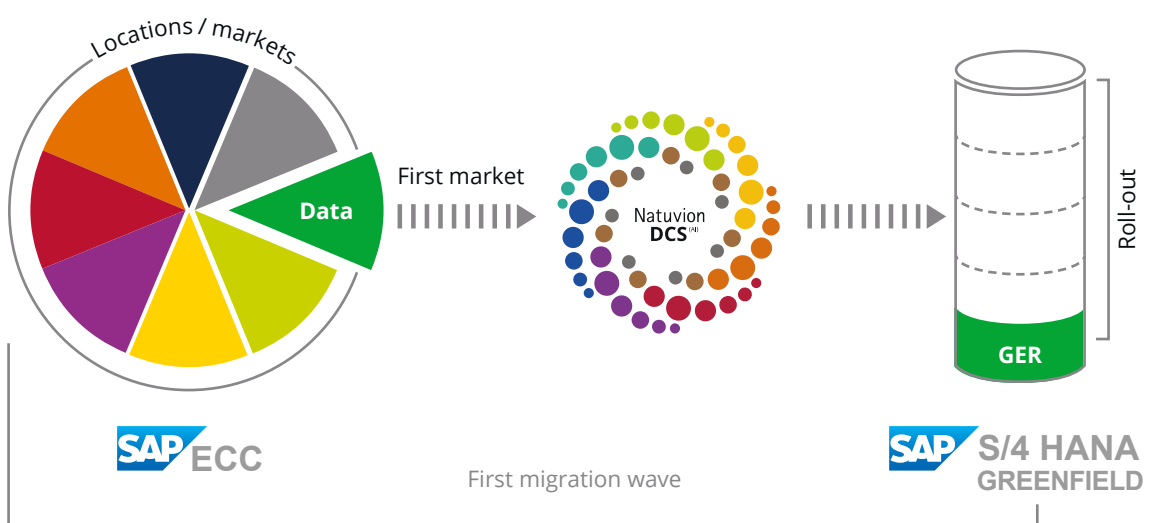
In 2027 SAP will end mainstream maintenance of its legacy solutions in favor of SAP S/4HANA. This alone forces SAP customers to evaluate a new platform. Efforts in the areas of digitalization add further motivation to consider SAP S/4HANA for accelerated and more flexible processes. These being good reasons for the BMW Group to make the call for SAP S/4HANA with entirely new structures and processes. The new system set up comes with a challenge: all necessary historical data must be transferred with the new system installation. For its implementation, the BMW Group wanted to break new grounds by seeking external support. The renowned automobile manufacturer conducted a market analysis to find the best partner. Following a preliminary introduction round, providers were invited to an in-depth selection process. Nativion was able to distinguish itself with outstanding technical expertise and convincing detailed concepts. As tools play a significant role in transformation projects, Nativion Data Conversion Suite (DCS) contributed to Nativion's selection as project partner. Nativion DCS is the proprietary transformation software which covers the entire transformation process from a technical as well as organizational point of view.

## System transition: global rollout in waves

Nativion was tasked to address a very specific and complex requirement at the BMW Group: migration of all selected historical data from the very large SAP ECC instance to a new, greenfield-implemented SAP S/4HANA system. This goal would be accomplished with the least possible operational downtime - at most 72 hours - and the best possible data quality. With a total of seven BMW Group sales organizations in scope, potential impact is substantial, making a successful transition imperative.

With the legacy system reaching its limits and blocking further innovation, time was of the essence. At the special request of the BMW Group, the project had to be completed as soon as possible, leaving little to no room for any disruption. The project started in January 2021 with Germany, being not only the largest market, but also the first country with a rollout scheduled for July 2022. Germany would be followed by three countries with three more migration waves.

### Transformation approach



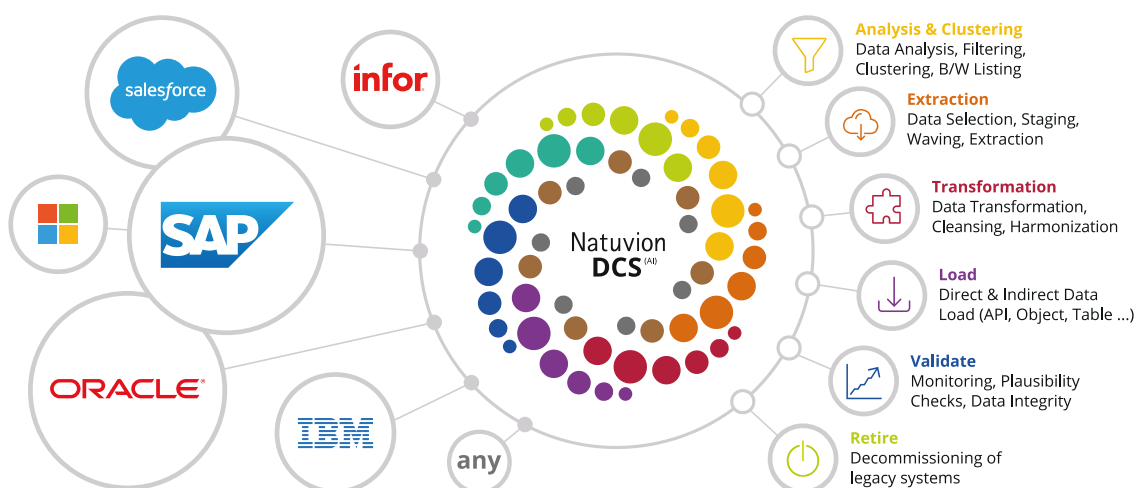
*The Nativion approach to SAP S/4HANA not only standardizes the process, but also simplifies it significantly. It may be applicable to most scenarios. Therefore, following a successful go-live for the German market unit, other countries may adhere to the same migration process with even less effort at reduced risk.*

## From start to finish: tool-based migration

With a tight schedule pressuring the project team, smart tools for each and every step become a necessity. The initial analysis of the ECC system at BMW Group already benefited from a tool-based approach using the analysis platform DCS Analyze as an integral part of the Nativion DCS. When migrating data from source to target, you must have a clear picture of your system components. This knowledge also proved key when successfully transitioning the system in South Africa to the German system for one global SAP S/4HANA. DCS Analyze provides the insight and enables the project team to determine all migration-relevant data for each country and business unit. Based on the results, Nativion developed the partially complex data mapping rules from old to new system. The rules were validated and adjusted in a first migration phase with six test cycles and a rehearsal. Finally, the SAP S/4HANA production migration concluded this phase.

The Nativion DCS assumed a pivotal role during the execution. Its Extract, Transform, and Load capabilities enabled the team to automatically retrieve relevant data from the SAP ECC system and transform it according to the mapping rules, before importing and validating it into the new SAP S/4HANA system environment. Overall, migration effort was dramatically reduced, delivering the highest quality with proven test automation and quality assurance concepts. In order to keep system downtime below the limit of 72 hours, Nativion DCS uses the intelligent Near-zero-downtime (NZDT) process.

The cover phase often presents itself with critical bottlenecks. Such a situation was already ruled out in the second migration test run by DCS Watch, a Nativion DCS-integrated task control tool. DCS Watch allows project members to register and monitor all project-relevant activities. By providing full transparency, immediate action can be taken if unexpected issues surface. The Nativion approach offers another value: during the testing cycles, the team noticed a vast increase in gained knowledge.



## Success: new SAP S/4HANA system up and running

Leveraging its extensive experience in the field of system transformation, complemented by the right tools to automate and accelerate the process, Nativion successfully delivered the BMW Group a new data-filled SAP S/4HANA system on time and on budget. With the first wave, all relevant historical data of the German SAP ECC system had been migrated to the new central SAP S/4HANA system. With one central system in place, processes can now be controlled and optimized in an efficient way.

Viktoria Wenzel, transformation expert at Nativion concludes: “Collaborating with the BMW Group was an extremely constructive and harmonious experience. In the early preparation phase, we met on a weekly basis, for both technical and organizational topics. Test cycles required daily stand-ups. Despite the virtual model of working remotely only, we worked together seamlessly, showing progress at an accelerated pace”. Transitioning to SAP S/4HANA puts the BMW Group in an advantageous position for anticipated future challenges and provides the necessary flexibility to respond to changing market conditions as needed. Teams at the BMW Group are excited to work with the new system.

What’s next: true to the motto “After the go-live is before the go-live”, the successful SAP S/4HANA transformation of the German system will be followed by three migration waves for respective countries. As part of another tender, Nativion has been contracted to perform an SAP HCM/FI system split for BMW US.

### Hard Facts

**Company**

BMW SE

**Headquarters**

Munich, Germany

**Industry**

Automotive

**Products & Services**

Automobiles, Mobility

**Revenue**

ca. USD 99B (2020)

**Employees**

ca. 120,000 (2020)

**Website**

[www.bmw.com](http://www.bmw.com)

**Nativion Services**

SAP S/4HANA Selective Data Transition

## About BMW



The BMW Group represents the world's leading manufacturer of premium automobiles and motorcycles and is the provider of premium financial and mobility services. The group is comprised of the brands BMW, MINI, and Rolls-Royce. The BMW Group operates a network of 31 production and assembly sites in 15 countries and its sales

organizations are represented in 140 countries.

## About Nativion



Nativion is a digital moving company that moves business-critical data and processes from one technology platform to another. Nativion experts are called in when medium-sized and large enterprises want to modernize, optimize, separate, merge, or restructure their IT systems. With its exclusive expertise in technical transformation, Nativion enables its customers to run their data and processes on

the most modern and innovative technologies available. To support data transformations, Nativion leverages its proprietary software solution, Nativion DCS. Nativion is a founding member of the SAP S/4HANA Selective Data Transition Engagement Community and has been part of NTT DATA Business Solutions AG, a leading global SAP consultancy, since 2022.

**Planning a move to SAP S/4HANA?  
Contact us!**

Nativion GmbH  
Altrottstraße 31  
69190 Walldorf

Telefon: +49 6227 73-1400  
info@nativion.com  
[www.nativion.com](http://www.nativion.com)





## Nativion Offices

### Germany

#### Nativion GmbH

Altrottstraße 31  
69190 Walldorf (Headquarter)

- Berlin
- Munich
- Leipzig

### Austria

#### Nativion Austria GmbH

- Vienna

### Switzerland

#### Nativion Schweiz AG

- Winterthur

### Slovakia

#### Nativion Slovakia s.r.o.

- Bratislava
- Zvolen
- Košice
- Žilina

### USA

#### Nativion Americas Inc.

- Miami (Florida)
- Malvern (Pennsylvania)

### Australia

#### Nativion Australia & New Zealand Pty Ltd

- Sydney

