

Strategic Cooperation Between Bosch And SAP

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New standard to simplify business processes

Strengthening Germany as a digital location

(Latest Update September 10, 2020) - According to a joint press release, Bosch and SAP want to simplify digital business processes and have therefore agreed on a strategic cooperation. Among other things, a digital industry standard is to simplify the exchange and use of company data along the value chain to automate processes within and between companies and to increase efficiency.

"We need strong partnerships to drive forward the digitization of Germany. By creating a standard with SAP, we also offer added value for customers, partners, and suppliers," Dr. Michael Bolle is quoted, Bosch CEO and CDO/CTO of the Bosch Group.

In particular, the global automotive industry, with its highly integrated supply chains and numerous production sites, which are often still individually managed and controlled today, is expected to benefit from this. The core of the cooperation is the transfer of Bosch business processes into the ERP software suite SAP S/4HANA for planning, controlling, and managing resources from order entry, manufacturing, and delivery to invoice processing.

Christian Klein, Spokesman of the Board of Management, Chief Operating Officer and member of the Executive Board of SAP SE, explains the partnership as follows: "Bosch's industrial expertise and technology leadership in many industries makes it extremely important for global supply and value chains. Together, we are pursuing the goal of digitally mapping this expertise based on SAP S/4HANA - and thus defining a uniform industry standard to make the advantages of digital transformation accessible to other industry participants".

Bundled expertise for industrial processes and digitalization

Process, technology, and development experts from both companies are working closely together in the cooperation, thus driving forward internal digitalization at Bosch at full speed. For example, the number of ERP SAP systems is to be halved with the help of SAP S/4HANA implementation and transformation. In the Bosch Mobility Solutions division alone, productive systems will be reduced to one. This contributes to a significant increase in the possibilities for real-time analyses and control optimization.

Bosch, in turn, will influence the further development of SAP S/4HANA with its expertise in various business areas and processes - both for its own interests and for the benefit of the SAP customer base. SAP will play an important role as a partner and consultant during the integration.

The goal of the standardization and automation of processes is a decisive simplification of the global system landscape, a continuous optimization of processes and an even more secure handling of real-time analyses. Especially at the interfaces to suppliers on the one hand and to customers on the other hand, considerable potential can be tapped in the exchange of requirements, planning and needs. For the first time, the latest technologies make this possible in real time across the entire value-added chain and among all parties. Thus, competitiveness and agility are permanently increased from the level of corporate management to production.

Bosch, SAP, Siemens

Following the recently announced collaboration between SAP and Siemens in the areas of PLM and ERP, the partnership of SAP and Bosch now comes for the development of standardized digital industrial processes. Bosch, SAP, and Siemens were also among the first and most important partners in the Industry 4.0 initiative and are now working together to drive forward the standardization of the digital transformation of industry. These are good approaches for strengthening Germany's role as a business location in the global digitalization of industry.

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