

Aji Bio-Pharma: Setting the Foundation for Industry 4.0 with an Intelligent Core

As a fully integrated custom development and manufacturing organization for active pharmaceutical ingredients and fine chemicals, Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services' (Aji Bio-Pharma) ultimate goal is to provide adaptive solutions, responsive service, trusted partnerships, and peace of mind to its customers. For Aji Bio-Pharma to adapt to future customer demands, the company needed to prepare its digital business process landscape for Industry 4.0. A new and upgraded foundation was a necessary step in Aji Bio-Pharma's journey toward becoming an intelligent enterprise. This would allow the company to improve financial and procure-to-pay processes through **automation, embedded analytics, and a better user experience**, as well as build innovative applications to empower users.



Preparing for Future Innovation and Streamlining Finance and Plant Maintenance Processes with SAP S/4HANA®



Before: Challenges and Opportunities

- Legacy systems and applications, leading to various manual and paper-based handling and validation workflows
- Requirement for IT systems and processes to further incorporate compliance standards
- Growing need for a strong enterprise foundation to further integrate and optimize business processes
- Adoption of Industry 4.0 innovations to meet changing business models and customer demands

Why SAP and Flexso

- SAP S/4HANA® for use in accounting, controlling, procurement, and plant maintenance and as a foundation for future innovations and optimizations
- Ability to mitigate risk and ensure compliance with current good manufacturing practice (cGMP) regulations and the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (J-SOX)
- Flexso's deep transformation expertise, allowing for a smooth, successful, and flexible implementation that was on time and within budget
- Development of innovative bar-code applications for production through collaboration with Flexso

After: Value-Driven Results

- Enabled cost optimization, helping the company avoid having to upgrade its legacy environment
- Transformed asset management and plant maintenance to excel operationally by increasing process reliability and redundancy, resulting in reduced downtime
- Optimized finance through streamlined, intelligent, automated processes, resulting in reduced accounts payable and days to close annual books
- Improved intelligent analytics and self-service through the SAP® BW/4HANA® solution, reducing manual effort and allowing staff to focus on value-adding activities

“With the implementation of SAP S/4HANA and the improved purchase-to-pay flow, we took two further steps toward **fully integrated business processes**, efficient self-service, and the removal of various wasteful activities.”

Bruno Flour, Director ICT, Business Systems, and OE, Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services

30%

Reduction in late payments and orders

95%

Automation of purchase order management

30%

Increase in efficiency for framework order processes

Featured Partner



Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services
Wetteren, Belgium
www.ajibio-pharma.com

Industry
Life sciences

Products and Services
Pharmaceutical APIs and intermediates, amino acids, agrochemicals, and botanical extractions

Employees
880

Revenue
>€300 million

Featured Solutions
SAP S/4HANA and SAP BW/4HANA



Improving Analytics, Enhancing User Experiences, and **Streamlining Business Processes**

As a comprehensive custom development and manufacturing organization for fine pharmaceutical and chemical ingredients, Ajinomoto Bio-Pharma Services (Aji Bio-Pharma) is helping more than 70 million patients worldwide through product innovation, process compliance, and its customer-focused business. To keep building on its success, Aji Bio-Pharma embarked on a digital transformation journey with SAP and Flexso. The migration to SAP S/4HANA® and the SAP® BW/4HANA® solution is setting the foundation for future innovation, intelligent analytics, and Industry 4.0.

With SAP S/4HANA, Aji Bio-Pharma was able to set an integrated financial basis, improving and simplifying both financial and accounting processes. By leveraging its intelligent capabilities, the company is now seeing a reduction in important metrics such as days to close annual books and accounts payable.

The digitalization also enabled Aji Bio-Pharma to standardize and optimize procure-to-pay processes, which has enhanced user experiences. The company has also reduced the number of workflows from four to one through SAP S/4HANA software capabilities in automation, self-service procurement, e-catalogs, and punchout configuration to supplier catalogs.



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Studio SAP | 75236enUS (21/04)

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