

JÖRG THOMAS DICKERSBACH

# Supply Chain Management with SAP APO™

Structures,  
Modelling Approaches  
and Implementation  
of SAP SCM™ 2008

**Third Edition**

 Springer

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# Preface

This book rather addresses the question ‘how to implement SAP APO™’ than ‘why to implement SAP APO™’ and is written for people who are involved in SAP APO™ implementations. It is based on the SAP APO™ release SAP SCM™ 2008. The aim of this book is to provide the reader with the necessary background to start with first own steps in the system in the right direction by explaining the architecture and some basic structures of SAP APO™ and introducing common modelling approaches.

Although there are already several books published about SAP APO™ and there is a detailed documentation of the functions in the system, we have experienced a distinct need for explanations regarding the structure and the interaction of systems, modules and entities. The understanding of the possibilities and necessities on entity level is the basis for the modelling and the implementation of the business processes. This book mentions additionally many issues which have a great relevance in implementations, but are not mentioned in the literature.

In our experience with SAP APO™ projects we noticed an ever greater need (which remains more often than not unaware for much too long) to clarify the implications of the SCM approach for the implementation projects. Since SCM projects with SAP APO™ differ significantly from SAP ERP™ projects, there are some typical traps in which even experienced SAP ERP™ project managers are apt to fall which cause severe problems up to project failure. Especially in the first chapter common mistakes in SCM projects are pointed out.

The book does not claim to describe all SAP APO™ functionalities and modelling possibilities – since the modelling approaches are nearly unlimited and the product is still evolving, this would be impossible. Instead the focus is set on explaining common approaches especially for the high tech, the consumer goods and the chemical industries. Not included into the scope of this book are the scenarios and functionalities especially for automotive industry, repetitive manufacturing and aerospace and defence, and some other functionalities as VMI to third party customers, container resources and campaign planning.

Since the focus of the book lies on the practical use of SAP APO™, SCM theory in general as well as in connection with SAP APO™ is not within the

scope of this book. Therefore instead of the SCM literature the SAP notes of the online service system (OSS) are quoted. Working with the OSS is anyhow inevitable for any implementation project and an important source for information.

Compared to the first edition this book contains additional topics (as transportation planning, interchangeability, bucket-oriented CTP and scheduling of complex job chains) and many updates in the functionality – representing two years' development.

Finally I would like to thank Jens Drewer and Claus Bosch, who helped me a lot during the whole project (the chapter about transportation and shipment scheduling was contributed by Jens Drewer), Bernd Dittrich for his help and comments on transportation planning, and Dr. Stephan Kreipl, Anita Leitz, Bernhard Lokowandt, Armin Neff, Stefan Siebert, Uli Mast and Christoph Jerger for their corrections and comments.

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Jörg Thomas Dickersbach

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