

Success Story

Global Trade Services: How the NGBA GTS e4H transformation project improves BASF's foreign trade solutions!

An article by Dr. Christine Müller, Executive Expert Trade Compliance, BASF SE, on the NGBA@GTS transformation project and the collaboration with SI PRO.

At a Glance

SI PRO Services:

- Functional consulting and solution design as part of the transformation from SAP GTS 11.0 to SAP GTS, edition for SAP HANA (e4H)
- Analysis, redesign and optimization of existing trade compliance processes based on a fit-to-standard approach
- Revision and standardization of the global process design and GTS system architecture
- Harmonization and standardization of regulatory structures
- Identification of optimization opportunities and reduction of customer-specific developments in favor of SAP standard functionality
- Planning, preparation and functional support for User Acceptance Tests (UAT), including test coordination, defect analysis and alignment with business departments
- Close collaboration with global trade compliance departments, BASF IT and other implementation partners
- Support for data validation and data migration
- Functional support for go-live preparation and assistance throughout the transformation phases
- Successful go-live in December 2025, including hypercaresupport

BASF SE

BASF SE, based in Ludwigshafen, is one of the world's leading chemical companies. Founded in 1865, it operates in more than 90 countries and employs over 110,000 people.

"Global Trade Services (GTS)" is an SAP-solution that BASF uses to comply with all legal and regulatory requirements in foreign trade and related areas. However, the R/3-GTS-version 11.0 currently in use will lose maintenance support at the end of 2025. Following an extensive evaluation phase in 2023, the NGBA@GTS transformation project is working to replace it with the successor solution "S/4 GTS edition for SAP HANA".

Foreign trade refers to the exchange of goods, technologies orservices between international regions or across national borders. In this context, BASF must comply with national laws and international agreements to protect the company and its employees from liability risks and avoid damage to BASF's reputation. GTS is therefore a business-critical system for BASF, as it ensures consistent compliance with all regulations relating to trade control, chemical regulations and customs management.

At BASF, around 1,000 users worldwide actively use GTS in their daily work, while approximately 4,500 users indirectly use the data stored in GTS. Most active users work in the Global Business Services (GB) unit in foreign trade functions such as customs and trade control.

"In this e4H-project, we have completely revised and further standardized the process design and IT-system architecture for BASF's trade-compliance-processes together with the expertise of the SI PRO GTS consultants. This makes the compliance-module in the GTS-system more effective, clearer and future-proof."

Dr. Christine Müller

Since November 2023, the transformation project has focused on implementing the new system landscape. It provides an opportunity to replace customer-specific solutions with SAP-standard functionality. To date, the project has made significant progress across several work packages.

"Thanks to the excellent collaboration between the BASF developers in the Foreign Trade Solution Team, trade-compliance- colleagues worldwide and the SI PRO GTS consultants, we were able to reduce the ***number of GTS-compliance- laws by 25%*** *and harmonize and standardize classification phrases, license types, country groups and business partner groups."*

Dr. Christine Müller