



4 Companies' Successful
Journey from Dynamics
AX 2009 and 2012 to
Dynamics 365



Is it time to upgrade your ERP? **enVista** can help.



We've successfully migrated dozens of customers from their existing Microsoft Dynamics AX 2009 or AX 2012 ERP systems to Microsoft Dynamics 365.

enVista launched its Microsoft Practice in 2008 and is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with unmatched supply chain strategy consulting, process improvement and technical/functional expertise for a full range of platform solutions, business productivity applications, and collaboration tools, including: SharePoint, Power BI, Office 365, Dynamics, and Azure.

Before you begin your migration, it's helpful to understand what fosters a successful implementation. Through four customer success stories, we'll dive into what to expect throughout the transition, including approach best practices and important tips and tricks to not only keep your project on track but within budget.

Learn how four customers—from differing industries and with unique AX customizations—migrated to Dynamics 365. This e-book will detail each customer's pain points, how independent software vendors (ISVs) were utilized, the project approach, and the timeline to migration.

Through the success of others, discover the right path for your organization.

Lippert Components, Inc.

Lippert Components Inc. (LCI), a leading supplier of highly engineered products for the European leisure and caravanning industries, needed to consolidate multiple ERP technologies—including Dynamics NAV, Dynamics AX, and TCM systems—into a single platform.

With more than 65 facilities throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland, Italy, and the United Kingdom, LCI employs more than 10,000 team members. In the last 15 years, LCI has experienced tremendous growth through more than 40 acquisitions.

INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

ISVs INVOLVED

PLM, CPQ, BI, Tax, EDI, CC Processing, Buy Design (Product Configurator), Rapid Response (Forecasting and Planning), Enovia (PIM and Quality Control), WINIG (Glass Cutting Software)

OLD ERP SYSTEM

Dynamics NAV, Dynamics AX, TCM Systems

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

Three Plants Live; Additional Projects in Progress

MIGRATION TIMELINE

Three-month Go-Live for First Plant

LCI was unhappy with its current ERP support and selected enVista as a new partner to lead its Dynamics 365 upgrade based on enVista’s deep expertise of the end-to-end supply chain.

Prior to migrating to a new ERP system, LCI had several critical considerations:

- The first plant migration had to be live within three months
- A multitude of ISVs needed to be evaluated for inclusion in the migration
- A customized Warehouse Management System (WMS) add-on encompassed code that was going to be challenging to migrate

With these considerations in mind, LCI consulted with enVista and made the decision to migrate its existing legacy ERP platforms to Dynamics AX 2012R3.





Approach

Working in conjunction with Microsoft, the enVista team identified the optimal approach and direction for the project, including how to handle the custom code within Dynamics 365.

With all hands-on deck to meet the three-month go-live timeline for the first plant, enVista's team developed a Dynamics 365 environment with a subset of legacy data for product awareness and training purposes. enVista assisted LCI in defining technical performance and data migration improvements as well as provided a support team for go-live and post-production support that worked in conjunction with LCI's team.

Results

The result was a successful migration to Dynamics AX 2012R3, then to D365, within the required three-month implementation timeline for the first plant. Code discrepancies, a major potential roadblock to the project, were resolved through multiple brainstorming sessions involving LCI, enVista, and Microsoft.

Within six months, enVista oversaw two of LCI's large manufacturing plants' go-lives and meanwhile supported the go-live of a third LCI plant. enVista will continue to support LCI as additional projects remain underway. When undertaking such an extensive project, the LCI team understood that

organization-wide training was necessary to ensure successful adoption of the new ERP system. To facilitate adoption, LCI utilized enVista's organizational change management (OCM) certified consultants to assist LCI in the onboarding of its new technology and business processes. As part of the training, enVista worked alongside LCI to develop a product awareness webinar for 1,300 back-office users. Additionally, enVista assisted LCI in establishing its own internal OCM group.

Future State

Following the next scheduled D365 go-live, LCI will shift its focus to working with enVista to migrate the remainder of its six plants, currently on Dynamics NAV, to Dynamics 365. After the successful migration of the next phase of the project, which is expected to take approximately six months, the project will conclude by migrating LCI's acquired organizations to Dynamics AX.

Summary:

- Multiple ERP technologies and ISVs
- Customized code leading to unique migration challenges
- Short timeline to go-live required
- Organization-wide training for successful product adoption
- Development of Organizational Change Management group

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana

One of the largest Goodwill stores in North America, serving 39 Indiana counties, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana (Goodwill), provides services to thousands of individuals and families each year.

Running on a legacy Dynamics AX 2009 ERP platform that encompassed multiple siloed systems and more than four business intelligence and analytics tools, Goodwill began to experience challenges that initiated its need for an ERP upgrade.

INDUSTRY

Retailer

ISVs INVOLVED

SK Global, Atlas

OLD ERP SYSTEM

Dynamics AX 2009

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

Live

MIGRATION TIMELINE

Six Months

Goodwill selected enVista as an implementation partner due to the firm's experience and knowledge across retail, distribution and manufacturing.

Goodwill was challenged with:

- A third-party Warehouse Management System that was not feeding the ERP with correct data, resulting in the inability to make accurate decisions
- Inefficient batch product controls
- Maintaining a standard, simplified production control system while still preserving production efficiencies and schedules
- The acquisition of Goodwill of Southern Indiana with its competing systems, specifically a Sage ERP platform



Approach

Although its previous ERP had functioned successfully for years, it had been implemented quickly and lacked advanced functionality. Wanting to take a different approach, Goodwill and enVista spent significant time shaping an optimal solution through process flow mapping, whiteboarding sessions, and visualizing the implementation.

Upon evaluating the current environment and taking into consideration the challenges Goodwill was experiencing, the decision was made to undertake a brand-new implementation of Dynamics 365 to replace Dynamics AX 2009.

By walking through processes critical to the business – such as sales orders, production, and accounting, the team was able to develop an implementation blueprint.

The solution blueprint included:

- Replacing Dynamics AX 2009 with Dynamics 365
- Implementing an Advanced Warehouse Management System in Dynamics 365 for accurate data, which included RF Devices
- Replacing Dynamics AX 2009 Production Manufacturing Execution System with a simplified production control system in Dynamics 365
- Implementing the use of PowerBI for reporting and data analysis
- Migrating Goodwill of Southern Indiana into the Dynamics 365 environment
- Providing support for the production environment

Within six months, and one month ahead of schedule, Goodwill's full data migration and brand-new implementation of Dynamics 365 was complete. Replacing the legacy AX 2009 ERP, the Dynamics 365 deployment was not only ahead of schedule but came in under budget.



Results

Within six months, one month ahead of schedule, Goodwill's full data migration and new implementation of Dynamics 365 was complete. Replacing the legacy AX 2009 ERP, the Dynamics 365 deployment was not only completed ahead of schedule but also came in under budget.

enVista assessed warehouse needs to ensure the right solution and appropriate configuration were utilized, and Goodwill was able to replace its previous solution with the Advanced Warehouse Management system within Dynamics 365, increasing its automation capabilities and providing it with a stronger set of tools.

Goodwill also needed to be able to report production details, so its Manufacturing Execution System was replaced with a simplified production control system in Dynamics 365 to streamline processes while executing to the same prior visibility.

Through the migration and implementation, the team was able to merge Goodwill of Central Indiana and Southern Indiana into one Dynamics 365 environment decreasing overall IT spend by eliminating the need to run two separate ERP platforms. Additionally, by increasing the production efficiencies through the migration to Dynamics 365, the company will continue to save both time and money.

Goodwill's project ownership throughout the ERP migration was a critical factor to its success. Fully engaged from the start of the project through the conclusion, Goodwill's active participation in the migration saved time and money and positioned the company for future success.

Summary:

- Minimal customization in previous ERP
- Desired enhanced functionality in new system
- Challenges with inaccurate data and reporting
- Merging systems post-acquisition
- Go-live one month ahead of schedule
- Under budget



Cornerstone Chemical

Cornerstone Chemical (Cornerstone) is a producer of a wide-range of chemicals and other products for customers in high-growth markets.

Employing nearly 500 people across North America and Europe, Cornerstone was operating on a partial implementation of Dynamics AX 2009, which resulted in the inability to utilize its full functionality.

INDUSTRY

Chemical Production

ISVs INVOLVED

Dynaway, Sable, SK Global, Atlas

OLD ERP SYSTEM

Partial Implementation of Dynamics AX 2009

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

In Progress

MIGRATION TIMELINE

16-month Project

Following a troubled Dynamics AX implementation, Cornerstone Chemical was looking for a new implementation partner that could successfully spearhead a Dynamics 365 upgrade, which led to its selection of enVista.

As a growing organization, Cornerstone sought to improve its ERP system and overcome current challenges, which included:

- No data visibility due to manual reporting and a limited analytics capability
- Integration roadblocks to existing systems and vendors
- Outdated Asset Management software that lacked required functionality
- Absence of documented business processes
- No real-time inventory reporting

Approach

Upon evaluating Cornerstone's challenges, enVista recommended Cornerstone undergo a discovery of business process and workflow requirements before designing its new ERP system. The discovery session assisted in determining the best path forward as Cornerstone made the transition to Dynamics 365.

To overcome Cornerstone's lack of transparency and manual reporting, enVista provided a side-by-side comparison of different business intelligence (BI) tools and approaches that best fit within Cornerstone's short and long-term goals. This ensured the BI tool would easily integrate with internal and external data sources as well as fall within budget.

Faced with the challenge of integrating existing systems and vendors, Cornerstone utilized enVista's proprietary enTelligent Integration Framework application. The framework app enabled an open integration environment for both the old and new systems—one that is scalable and automated.

To address the Enterprise Asset Management challenges, enVista trusted a best-in-class Dynamics ISV, Dynaway, to drive a seamless integration with Dynamics 365.

The team turned to Microsoft Advisor Services for best practices. Implementing

and documenting effective business process that tied into the new system guaranteed documentation was standardized moving forward.

Finally, the team deployed real-time production orders within Dynamics 365 along with its current Process/Operational Intelligence system.

Results

Upon go-live, Cornerstone will have a fully functional Dynamics 365 system in place. Challenges with its Enterprise Asset Management System—once a standalone system—will be alleviated once it is fully integrated into the Dynamics 365 platform.

Cornerstone will gain real-time visibility into its inventory, automated reporting, and analytics will be available as a result of being connected to multiple data sources, and documented business processes will live within Microsoft Lifecycle Services and Azure DevOps. Their implementation now positions them for future business growth.

Summary:

- Streamlined multiple business systems
- Consolidated, real-time reporting
- Standardized and documented business processes
- Minimized customization for ease of future upgrades

Brock Supply

Brock Supply, a family owned and operated business since 1960, sells aftermarket auto parts and shop supplies to customers globally from its distribution centers. Operating on a fully customized Dynamics AX 2009 ERP, Brock Supply discovered that while it was time for an upgrade, its current system was heavily customized and required a brand-new ERP implementation.

INDUSTRY

Auto Parts Maker and Supplier

ISVs INVOLVED

Target, Solochain, Mozula, ADSI
Perfion, Neuron, Avalara, SK Global

OLD ERP SYSTEM

Dynamics AX 2009

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

In Progress

After working closely with enVista on support of its current ERP environment, Brock Supply partnered with enVista to plan and execute its Dynamics 365 upgrade.

Approach

Desiring to take lessons learned from its previous ERP implementation, Brock Supply outlined several goals for the project:

- Adopt as much standard functionality as possible
- Update business processes to be better tailored to the ERP
- Minimize the amount of customization required
- Determine if third-party add-on products could replace the need for customization

With goals outlined, Brock Supply was ready to move forward with a Dynamics 365 implementation. The team extracted old data for a fresh start in the new ERP system. To ensure the new system would be effective and meet its goals, Brock Supply spent time refining and updating its business processes and procedures. While time intensive upfront, this important step ultimately allowed Brock Supply to save time and money as well as keep the project on track.



The new Dynamics 365 ERP system will include:

- A Dynamics 365 Retail Module to allow Brock Supply to designate where sales orders are coming from as well as manage and report activity
- An integration of its former Warehouse Management System
- A third-party add-on business intelligence tool
- The inclusion of a few, strategic custom solutions

Results

Desiring to take ownership of the project, the development team at Brock Supply is working closely with enVista to help shoulder the workload, reducing the cost of the implementation.

Brock Supply is currently in the final stages of implementation for its Dynamics 365 ERP. Once live, the system will be fully functional and tailored to support Brock Supply's specific business needs.

The cloud-based environment will replace its current on-premise systems. The new system, built to support its updated business processes, will help the company achieve greater efficiency through the addition of a robust business intelligence solution that supports its management and operational needs as well as provides a single view of its inventory across multiple platforms.

Summary:

- Highly customized ERP system
- Implementation of brand-new ERP
- Integration with existing warehouse and operations solutions
- Updated business processes
- Enhanced reporting capabilities



Is it time to upgrade your ERP? We are ready to help.

Join customers like Lippert Components, Inc., Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, Cornerstone Chemical and Brock Supply that enVista has successfully migrated to Dynamics 365.

We are ready to start the conversation around your migration.

Let's Get Started!

Contact us to schedule a free, one-hour consultation to discuss your potential move to Dynamics 365. During the consultation, learn migration best practices as well as ideas on how to approach your migration to ensure a successful transition.

About enVista's Microsoft Practice

enVista is a Microsoft Dynamics 365 implementation partner with unmatched supply chain consulting, Lean process improvement and technical/functional expertise. enVista is skilled across the entire suite of Microsoft solutions, business productivity applications, and collaboration tools, including: Dynamics AX/365, SharePoint, Power BI, Office 365 and Azure.

enVista's consultants are uniquely able to analyze your business, from source to consumption, and tailor the Microsoft Dynamics platform in a way that addresses your long-term, end-to-end business requirements. Additionally, enVista extends the value of Microsoft Dynamics with numerous integrations and add-ons that enable manufacturers, retailers and distributors to leverage new and existing third-party business applications.

Let's have a conversation.™

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