

# SAP S/4HANA transformation at PREH GmbH

Executing a high-precision SAP S/4HANA transformation under extreme operational constraints

Reference project:

**preh**

**“The project was executed with exceptional precision and collaboration. Every step was carefully planned, and every activity perfectly timed. The strong teamwork and disciplined approach across all parties ensured a smooth go-live within an exceptionally tight window.”**

Gihan Deloney Caspar, Project Lead, T-Systems

In today's fast-paced business environment, organizations across industries are under increasing pressure to modernize their IT landscapes while maintaining seamless operations. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems play a central role in enabling efficiency, scalability, and innovation, making their transformation a critical step toward long-term competitiveness.

Preh GmbH, a global leader in automotive supply, partnered with T-Systems to modernize its ERP landscape through a strategic SAP S/4HANA transformation. Operating in a highly dynamic and cost-sensitive market, PREH needed a solution that would strengthen its digital foundation, enhance performance, and secure long-term competitiveness, while ensuring uninterrupted logistics and production processes.

Together with T-Systems, PREH executed a highly complex brownfield conversion from SAP ERP ECC 6.0 EHP 7 to SAP S/4HANA 2023. The transformation was meticulously planned and flawlessly delivered, achieving continuity of data, processes, and integrations with a production downtime of only 30 hours. This precision execution safeguarded mission-critical operations while enabling PREH to embrace new innovations such as Business Partner (Customer-Vendor Integration) and Extended Warehouse Management (EWM).

The collaboration showcased the strength of T-Systems' Design-Transform-Operate methodology and global delivery capabilities. Multiple sub-projects were managed in parallel, yet the program was delivered on time, within budget, and to the highest quality standards. By combining PREH's vision with T-Systems' expertise, the transformation not only modernized the ERP

backbone but also positioned PREH to drive digital innovation, operational resilience, and sustainable growth in the automotive industry.



## At a glance

- Performed a holistic S/4HANA pre-study to define the right transformation approach, identify mandatory preparation activities, develop a project plan for the subsequent migration project and estimate the required effort and budget
- Delivered a brownfield SAP S/4HANA 2023 system conversion while preserving existing business processes and data
- Achieved a highly controlled go-live with only 30 hours of planned downtime, minimizing impact on business operations
- Managed high project complexity with multiple parallel initiatives, including Business Partner (CVI) and Extended Warehouse Management (EWM)
- Completed the transformation on time and within budget despite severe cost pressure and restructuring in the automotive industry
- Improved system performance, reporting speed, and user experience through SAP HANA and role-based Fiori applications
- Established a future-ready digital core enabling scalability and innovation with technologies such as AI and IoT
- Enabled a more cost-efficient modernization compared to a greenfield re-implementation approach

**T Systems**

# Reference in detail

## Customer pain points

The existing SAP ECC system at Preh had to be modernized without reengineering core business processes, as disruptions to logistics and production were not acceptable.

At the same time, the automotive industry downturn created significant cost pressure, accompanied by organizational restructuring and reduced internal capacity. The project also had to accommodate multiple parallel initiatives, including the introduction of Business Partner, EWM, and actual cost calculation, increasing complexity and risk. Most critically, PREH imposed strict go-live constraints, allowing only a 30–35-hour downtime window, making flawless execution essential.

## How T-Systems solved it

T-Systems recommended and executed a brownfield SAP S/4HANA system conversion using its proven Design–Transform–Operate methodology, based on SAP Activate best practices. In the initial phase, T-Systems performed a holistic S/4HANA pre-study to define the right transformation approach, identify mandatory preparation activities, develop a detailed project plan for the subsequent migration, and estimate the required effort and budget.

Based on the results of this assessment, the team executed a 1:1

brownfield SAP S/4HANA 2023 system conversion to retain existing business processes, master data, and integrations, ensuring functional continuity during the transition. This approach allowed PREH to retain existing business processes, master data, and transaction data while transitioning to SAP S/4HANA 2023.

The project followed a multi-cycle conversion strategy, beginning with a sandbox proof of concept, followed by development, quality assurance, dress rehearsal, and final production conversion. Extensive technical and functional testing, including system integration and user acceptance testing, ensured stability and data consistency. T-Systems provided advisory, project governance, test management, and hypercare support, while closely coordinating with PREH's internal teams and global delivery units, including T-Systems India, to ensure precise timing and execution during the critical go-live window.

## Business impact

The successful SAP S/4HANA transformation delivered significant and measurable benefits for PREH. The planned production downtime was limited to just **30 hours**, minimizing the impact on ongoing operations and ensuring uninterrupted supply chain performance.

By choosing a brownfield approach, the customer achieved a **20–30% faster and more cost-efficient implementation** compared to a greenfield reimplementation, while preserving proven business processes. System performance improved through SAP HANA's in-memory capabilities, enabling **up to 10x faster reporting** and real-time insights for decision-makers. The introduction of role-based Fiori applications simplified the user experience and reduced complexity, contributing to a **10–15% reduction in transaction steps** across key business roles. Most importantly, PREH now operates on a future-ready digital core that supports advanced innovations such as AI, IoT, and further automation, strengthening operational resilience in a competitive automotive market.

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