

## STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT ACCELERATION: EXPEDITE SAP ARIBA DEPLOYMENT IN PARALLEL WITH S/4HANA TRANSFORMATION — REALISING RAPID PROCUREMENT GAINS WHILE ENABLING LONG-TERM S/4HANA SUCCESS

### **Strategic Objective**

Accelerate procurement transformation by expediting SAP Ariba deployment in parallel with a major S/4HANA initiative. This approach enables early realization of procurement benefits while aligning with long-term ERP strategy.

### What is SAP Ariba?

SAP Ariba is a cloud-based procurement platform designed to streamline and simplify procurement operations. It plays a critical role in enabling efficient, standardized, and scalable procurement processes across organizations.

### It offers:

- Intuitive, self-service tools for end users to manage day-to-day procurement tasks
- Integration with backend S/4Hana system for data synchronization and financial processing

A modular approach covering:



### **Supplier Management**

- Accelerated supplier onboarding
- Self-service for suppliers
- Synchronisation with ERP

02

### **Sourcing and Contracts**

- Guided sourcing
- Integrated contract management
- Integrated supplier

03

### **Procurement**

- Guided buying
- Catalogues & Spot buy
- Procurement operations

04

### Invoice Management

- Invoice processing
- Invoice workflow and approval
- Invoice monitoring

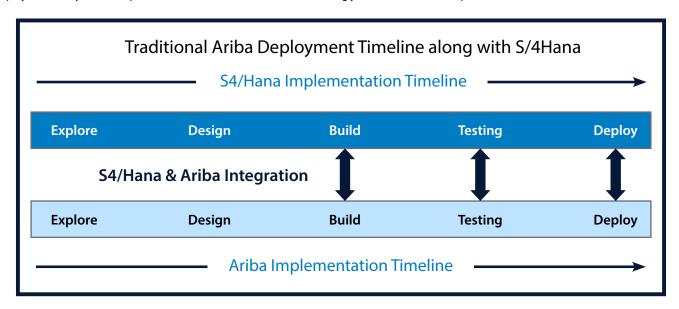


### S/4HANA and SAP Ariba Deployment Timelines

S/4HANA transformations typically span multiple years, beginning with pilot phase and followed by phased rollouts. If SAP Ariba is implemented on the same timeline, its benefits are delayed.

SAP Ariba is a cloud-based solution with a much shorter deployment cycle. This creates a strategic opportunity:

"Deploy Ariba early to unlock procurement value now—rather than waiting years for ERP to catch up"



Expedite an implementation of SAP Ariba alongside S/4HANA is essential to accelerate procurement modernization, unlock early value, and ensure seamless alignment with the future ERP landscape.



### Approach to Expedite SAP Ariba Deployment

### Step 1 - Ariba Early Deployment

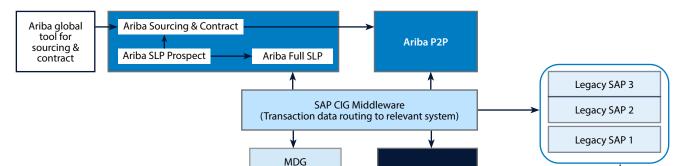
### Step 2 - Pilot

### Step 3 - Legacy Integration

**Scope** - Implement Ariba Sourcing and Contract Globally

**Scope** - Implement MDG, S/4HANA and Ariba P2P for selected region / country

**Scope** – Enable parallel integration of Legacy and S/4HANA with MDG and SAP Ariba



### **Key Consideration**

- 1. Global Enablement: Deploy Ariba sourcing and contract management independently across the global business, ensuring consistency and scalability.
- 2. **Unified Platform**: Use Ariba as a single tool to manage sourcing and contracts, streamlining operations and reducing complexity.
- 3. ERP Independence: Ariba functions without dependency on backend ERP systems, allowing faster rollout and early value realization.

### **Key Consideration**

(Master data

distribution to relevant system)

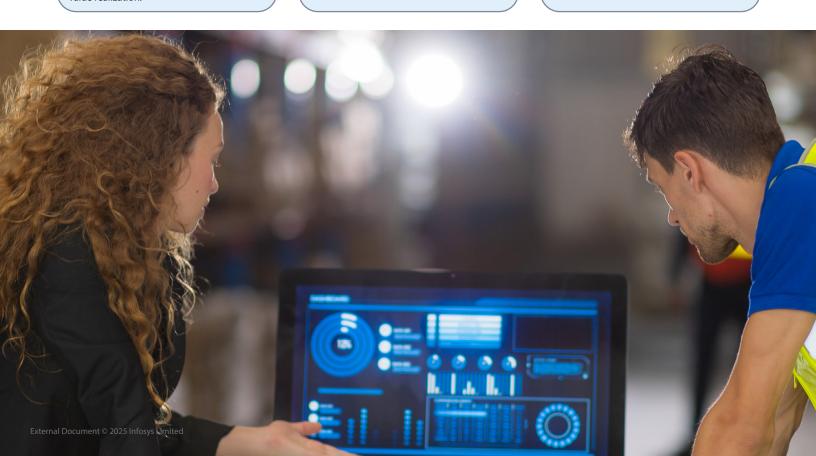
1. **Targeted Pilot Rollout**: Begin with a pilot implementation of SAP MDG (Master Data Governance), S/4HANA and Ariba P2P (Procure-to-Pay) for a selected region or country to validate the approach and refine processes.

**SAP S/4HANA** 

2. Global Process Standardization: Use insights from the pilot to standardize procurement processes globally, ensuring consistency, scalability, and readiness for broader rollout.

### **Key Consideration**

- 1. **Dual-System Integration**: Enable parallel integration of legacy systems and S/4HANA to position MDG and SAP Ariba as the global platforms.
- 2. Accelerated Value Delivery: Avoid transformation delays by deploying SAP Ariba early, unlocking procurement value.
- 3. **Data Consistency**: Ensure supplier ID synchronization across all systems to maintain data integrity, reduce duplication, and streamline procurement operations.



# Ariba Sourcing & Contract Ariba SLP Prospect Ariba Full SLP SAP CIG Middleware (Transaction data routing to relevant system) SAP MDG Master data distribution to relevant system S/4HANA S/4HANA S/4HANA

**Key Consideration** 

- 1. Supplier Data: Already exists in MDG; no migration needed, only replication to S/4Hana
- 2. **Integration:** Master and transactional data integration is in place with S/4HANA; only data updates for the companies moving to S/4HANA
- 3. Adoption: Ariba is already in use; users are familiar with Ariba processes



### **Key Takeaways for Business Leaders**

To stay competitive during digital transformation, organizations must adopt a dual-track approach—deploying SAP Ariba early to drive procurement value, while building toward a unified S/4HANA core.

### **Deployment Strategy:**



The strategy involves early deployment of Ariba sourcing and contract management globally, independent of ERP systems.



A pilot phase includes S/4HANA, MDG and Ariba P2P processes in selected regions / country.



Parallel integration with legacy systems is established before full ERP rollout.



Prioritize dual-system integration where legacy systems are SAP, significantly reducing implementation complexity and accelerating deployment timelines.

### **Business Benefits**



Accelerated procurement value realization



Standardized global procurement processes



Reduced dependency on ERP transformation timelines



Improved supplier engagement and user adoption



Strategic alignment of procurement and ERP modernization.





## Infosys | consulting

### About the Author:



### **Amit Gupta Senior Principal**

Amit brings over 22 years of rich experience in procurement, with a strong track record in both operational excellence and large-scale transformation initiatives. He has successfully led procurement transformation programs for global organizations across diverse industries, helping clients optimize their procurement functions and drive measurable business value. At Infosys Consulting, Amit is part of the Solution Architecture Excellence team, where he helps clients design and implement scalable, intelligent enterprise solutions tailored for the digital age.

### ABOUT INFOSYS CONSULTING:

Infosys Consulting is a next-generation consulting partner that bridges strategy and execution. With an Al-first mindset, deep industry knowledge, and the combined strengths of business and technology consulting, it helps enterprises turn bold vision into tangible outcomes, faster, smarter, and at scale.

Infosys Consulting is helping some of the world's most recognizable brands transform and innovate. Our consultants are industry experts that lead complex change agendas driven by disruptive technology. With offices in 20 countries and backed by the power of the global Infosys brand, our teams help the C-suite navigate today's digital landscape to win market share and create shareholder value for lasting competitive advantage.

### **CONNECT WITH US**





