

Transportation Management with SAP TM 9.0

A Hands-On Guide to Configuring,
Implementing, and Optimizing SAP TM



Jayant Daithankar
Tejkumar Pandit

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About the Authors



Jayant Daithankar has 24 years of industry and SAP experience. He has held numerous consultancy engagements with global clients. He has strong domain experience in the financial area and multiple professional credentials, including certified SAP consultant for SAP Finance and Controlling, SAP delivery head for the SAP transportation unit, and driver for the SAP Transportation Management logistics practice and other business units. Jayant has also worked at the senior level in the delivery of business-process re-engineering in large enterprise resource planning projects, systems analysis, and application design of SAP processes for customer-specific requirements. He has been closely associated with the SAP Transportation Management product from version 6.0 through its latest release. Jayant currently serves as the Center of Excellence leader in global IT organization.



Tejkumar Pandit has worked for more than 20 years in areas such as supply chain management, customer relations management, transportation, retail, warehousing, and associated software technology. He has several years of varied, hands-on logistics-industry experience in critical roles, such as head of cargo & operations manager. Furthermore, over the past 11 years he has played critical roles in building technology solutions for areas such as transportation management, distribution management, and track and trace. As the practice lead for Logistics and Transportation, he plays a key role, interacting with customer's C-Suite officers in order to understand their organizations' needs and challenges. Tejkumar is currently a consultant, designing operational processes and associated technology landscapes that help firms meet their growth objectives.

About the Technical Reviewer



Shreekant Shiralkar is a senior management professional with experience leading and managing business functions as well as providing technology consulting for major corporations. He is presently consolidating analytic practices for a leading technology company that provides IT services, consulting, and business solutions. He has established, expanded, and diversified businesses, both within India and globally for Fortune 500 firms. He has also authored several best-selling books and published white papers on technology. He holds a number of patents for innovations he has developed.

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Introduction

Globalization has played a crucial role in the expansion of supply chains across countries and continents into ever-changing worldwide networks. Manufacturers, driven by the desire to produce cost-effective, high-quality products are continuing to extend their supply-demand chains, introducing new challenges to these networks. This seismic shift has led to the phasing out of internal logistics functions, and a move towards third-party logistics providers (3PLs), enabling manufacturers to focus on their core business areas. 3PLs are challenged daily by demanding customers, changing regulations, compliance standards, and gaps between their information technology (IT) maturity and customers' expectations. Hence, 3PLs have started to simplify, modernize, and standardize their IT systems. The aim is to build a system landscape that can address all of their requirements, while replacing most of the existing complex and fragmented systems with a robust platform. In particular, applications that deal with critical functional areas, such as order management, transportation planning, execution, warehousing, finance, billing, and pricing and costing are in need of attention. TMS (transportation management systems) has therefore emerged as one of the critical areas, if not the most critical one.

Implementation of a TMS is key. If executed well, a good TMS can deliver many benefits to an organization in terms of optimization, improved efficiency, reduced errors, and increased revenue. However, a number of projects fail to achieve these objectives for a host of reasons, including incorrect product selection, overcustomization of the system, lack of standardized processes, and little support from management. In realizing the maximum benefit from a TMS, the product selection process and implementation methodology play significant roles.

This book provides insights intended to make the SAP Transportation Management (SAP TM) journey more relevant and fruitful. With a proven evaluation framework and solid recommendations, the book is useful for executives, pre-sales teams, and implementation and rollout teams. Furthermore, it can help decision makers, such as chief intelligence officers (CIOs) and chief experience officers (CXOs), with the important tasks of selecting a product, creating a business case for management approval, and designing a future road map for the organization. Combining the results of research and analysis and knowledge gained from experience working with industry leaders, the book helps to advance the understanding of SAP TM, and it serves as a step-by-step implementation and rollout guide.

This book is structured as follows:

- Transportation Industry Overview: 3PL Perspective
- The Need for TMS: Challenges and IT Landscape
- TMS Product Landscape: Vendors, Product Overview, Plans, and Comparison
- SAP TM: Overview, Architecture, and Road Map
- TMS Selection Framework
- Industry Best Practices for Implementation, Rollout, and Maintenance of SAP TM
- Team Composition and Skill Matrix Required for TM Engagement and How to Build Competency in TM
- Transformation Impact of SAP TM Implementation
- New Dimension Products: HANA, Mobility, and Analytics—Their Impact on Transportation Management
- Process Mapping End-to-End Freight Life-Cycle Scenarios
- Step-by-Step Guide to Configuring and Implementing SAP TM 9.0