

# **Challenges in Integrating Two SAP Environments in a Merger - a Case Study**

**Ahmad Al Mulla** 

SAP Mining and Metals Forum Darmstadt, Germany October 9, 2014

# **Agenda**



- An introduction to Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)
- The case for the merger
- Integration challenges and approach
- Achievements and lessons learned
- Way forward
- Q & A

# **Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)**



EGA was formed by the merger of Dubai Aluminium and Emirates Aluminium, two UAE industrial flagships



First metal in 2007 1.3 million MTA finished product The world's longest potline at 1.7km and largest

gas treatment centre

Workforce of 3000 +

Contributed 0.4 percent of the UAE's total GDP in 2012 and 2013 150+ customers

Produces sow, standard/sheet/ foundry ingots and extrusion billets







Founded in 1979
More than 1 million
MTA finished
product

Proprietary DX reduction technology

Workforce of 3800+

One of Dubai's largest non-oil economic contributors

300+ customers (automotive, construction, electronics)

Produces foundry alloy, extrusion billet and high purity aluminium



Refining

**Smelting** 

- Combined value of over \$15B
- \$6.6B in revenue
- World's 5th largest aluminium company by production
- Joint production capacity of 2.4m tons per annum
- Planned value chain expansion into mining and refining
- Serving over 440
   customers in 55 countries
   across 6 continents
- Over 7,000 employees –
   20+% UAE Nationals



#### **EGA Vision and Mission**



To provide the global economy with sustainable material of the highest quality, building a legacy of excellence for the UAE and the world



We help shape the future by delivering high performance aluminium to our customers, for use in a range of cuttingedge applications



We operate with a deep commitment to sustainability and to the well-being and development of our people.

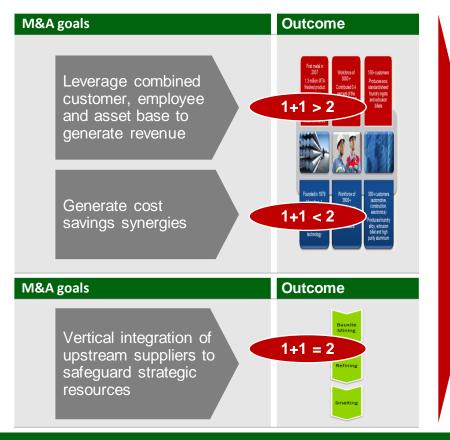


We focus on innovation, performance and profitability, and provide support for a broader aluminium cluster, to ensure a lasting contribution to the UAE and global economies.

# Objectives of Merger and the Implications for IT



A range of merger objectives have different implications for IT



#### Implications for IT

- Enabling multi-geography and multi-site operations
- Investing in the capabilities of the IT team to support the roadmap
- Actively evaluating new technologies to enable IT innovation
- Eliminate system duplication
- Rationalize service agreements
- Reduce license fees
- Reduce support costs

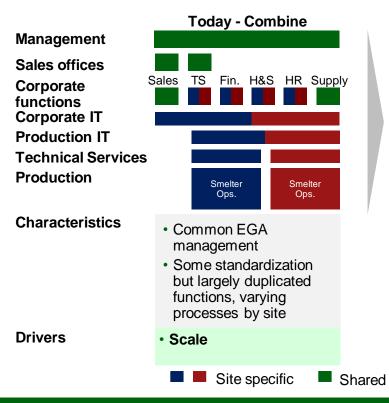
#### **Implications for IT**

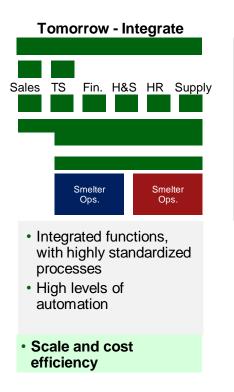
- Standardize systems
- Standardize infrastructure
- Applications integration
- Consolidate services and suppliers
- Data center rationalization

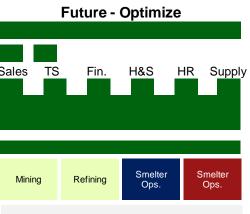
# **EGA Operating Model**



IT needs to support an operating model that will become more integrated as EGA assimilates new assets along the value chain







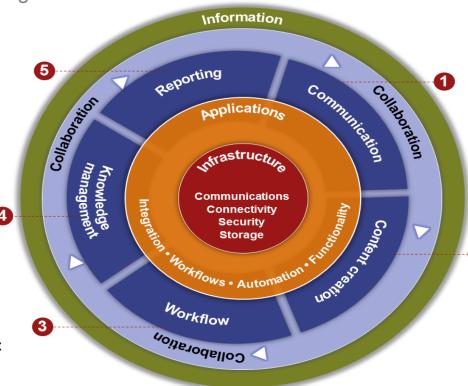
- Corporate IT part of global shared services center
- Mature, optimized services with defined SLA's
- Global visibility and integration across value chain
- Scale, cost efficiency and flexibility

# **EGA Business Requirements**



IT capabilities are required to enable better information-based decision-making, and support a globally integrated business

- Data mining, predictive analytics and visualization
- Self-service for Strategy & Corp. Dev. Team
- Market intelligence data
- Mobility
- Easy access to policies, procedures and handbooks (EHS, Legal, Technical Services)
- eLearning capability to track certifications
  - Enterprise-wide document management



- Information sharing using multiple channels and platforms e.g. social media
- Information exchange with 3rd parties

- Aggregated unstructured content
- Common templates e.g. Technical services and EHS
- Marketing Resource Management for Corporate Comms.

# **Integration Challenges and Approach**



Due to shifting Day 1 timelines, IT needed to be agile and apply strong governance practices

Integration Planning and Day 1

Post-Merger Integration

3

Synergy Capture

#### **Challenges**

- Different corporate cultures
- Differing organizational structures
- Staff attrition
- Shifting Day 1 timelines
- Information security risks

#### **Approach**

- Defined leadership structures, roles and responsibilities to achieve functional integration
- Integration Management Office (IMO) provided support for strict prioritization of solutions for Day 1
- Applied strong IT governance and communication
- Assigned agile and dedicated IT team, including war room for Day 1 support issues
- Established Enterprise Information Security Department
- · Aligned organizational structures in SAP systems

# **Day 1 Deliverables**





The focus was to identify and implement solutions to support critical, Day 1 EGA processes as approved by the EGA business integration teams.

# **Information Technology**

#### **Cross-functional**

**Finance** 

Sales & Marketing

**Human Resources** 

- Prepared **IT Infrastructure requirements** to support **cross-site business activities**, for example office computing, back-office infrastructure, communication lines, network, telecom equipment.
- Provided EGA employees with secure access to key DUBAL and EMAL systems.
- Provided EGA with a secure and efficient approval mechanism for key processes, including alignment of SAP workflows with new EGA delegation of authority.
- Provided EGA with a SAP solution to support key financial processes, including electronic payments and the generation of IFRS financial statements.
- Provided EGA with a Treasury Management System to conduct Treasury Operations securely and efficiently.
- Provided EGA with the ability, in both EMAL and DUBAL SAP systems, to manage credit for secured customers and control the release of metal to customers.
- Provided EGA with the design for a single customer portal.
- Aligned SAP organization structures across EMAL and DUBAL
- Provided EGA with a payroll processing solution.

# **Integration Challenges and Approach**



High business demand across multiple sites requires a robust mechanism for receiving, evaluating and prioritising business requirements

Integration Planning and Day 1

Post-Merger Integration

3

Synergy Capture

# Challenges

- New management teams
- Staff attrition
- High business demand and competing strategic priorities
- Key SAP design differences
- Different IT policies, procedures and service catalogues across sites
- Information security risks

#### **Approach**

- Prepared EGA 5 year IT strategy and business area roadmaps
- Established Innovation Centre and collaborate with key vendors
- Prepared EGA policies and procedures
- Established IT service model to support new entities
- Uplifted Business Relationship Manager role
- Consolidate SAP landscape
- Adopt a collaboration platform
- · Consolidate and further standardize infrastructure

# **EGA IT Strategy Outputs**





10

EGA developed a 5 year IT strategy and roadmap that integrates and leverages the best of DUBAL and EMAL to support EGA's business objectives and growth aspirations.

# **Utility Function**

- Centralized IT governance
- Benchmark IT performance
- IT Shared Services
- Clear cost-to-serve
- World-class IT operations

#### Service Provider

- Business- IT alignment
- Focus on business outcomes
- Mature PMO.
- Effective vendor management
- Transparent performance

As business complexity increases, IT will need to place more emphasis on the Business Partner role

IT as a value driver

#### **Business Partner**

- Transformation enablement
- Information stewardship
- Innovation advocate
- Process excellence
- Agile proof of concepts

IT as cost driver











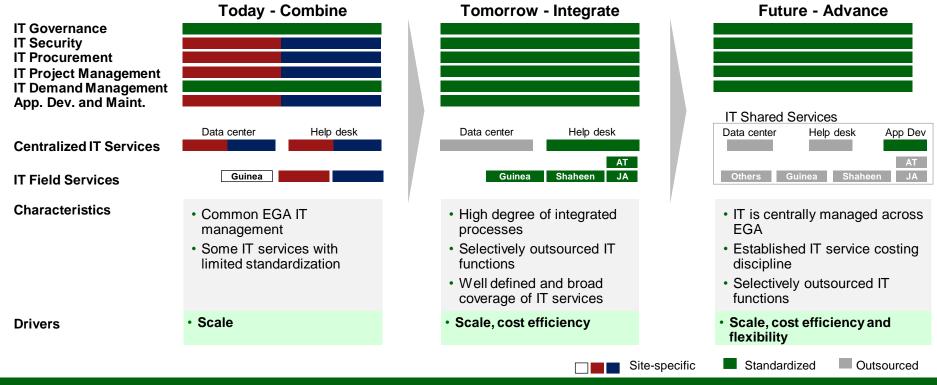


# **EGA IT Strategy Outputs**





IT will transition its operating model to support centrally managed and globally shared IT services

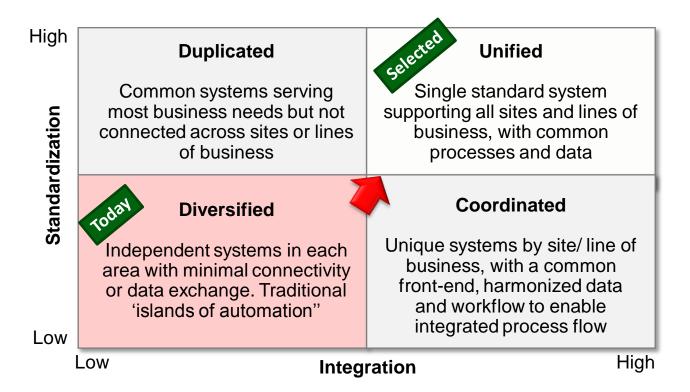


# **Consolidate SAP Landscapes**





A number of SAP consolidation options were considered in light of EGA's target operating model and business requirements

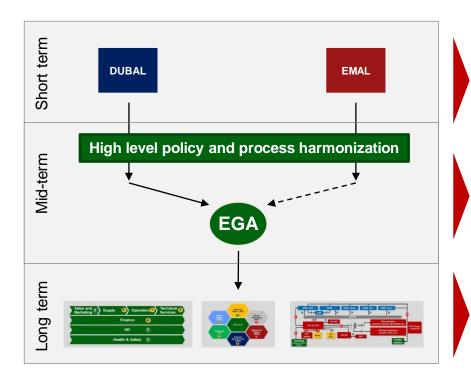


# **Consolidate SAP Landscapes**





A unified SAP system will provide financial benefits while allowing for agility and innovation



- Similar process across sites
- 30 key design differences
- Over 100 source code changes
- Over 1,000 customizations
- High-level process harmonization completed pre-blueprint as a first step in SAP unification project
- Add mining and refining entities to DUBAL SAP in shortterm
- Controlled carryover to new refreshed instance:
  - Core SAP functionality from DUBAL
  - Selective functionality from EMAL
- New unified EGA SAP environment
- Fewer source code changes and customizations
- One process, one design, one architecture

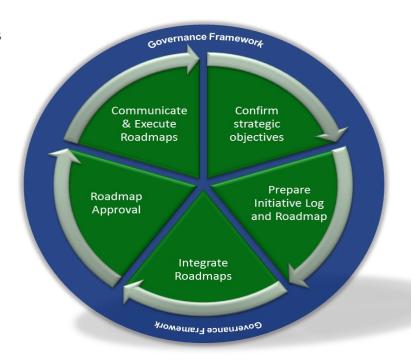
# **Business Area Roadmapping**





A well governed roadmapping process will help EGA to target and realize strategic benefits

- High-level initiatives are identified per business area and prioritized over a 3-5 year horizon
- Driven top-down ensure alignment with strategy and target operating model
- Initiatives to be executed through IT registered projects
- Ongoing process that is repeated bi-annually
- Monthly progress reporting
- Initial consolidated roadmap and major updates to be approved by the EGA Executive
   Committee

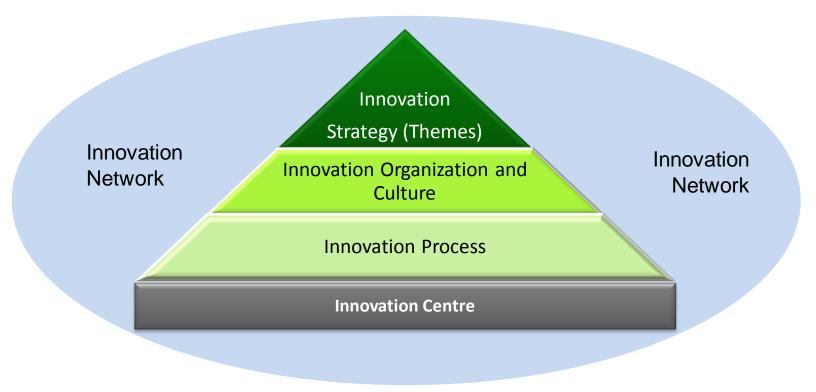


# **Innovation Framework**





The innovation centre will support the roadmapping process and help to develop an innovation network including EGA employees and business partners



# **Integration Challenges and Approach**



New challenges continue to emerge throughout the integration process

Integration Planning and Day 1

Post-Merger Integration



Synergy Capture

#### **Anticipated Challenges**

- Maintenance of duplicated applications and large portfolio of data centers
- Competing strategic priorities
- Supporting growth versus cost pressures
- Agility and standardization across global sites

#### **Planned Approach**

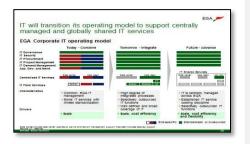
- Prepare for and establish EGA IT shared services
- Enhance and standardize applications architecture
- Adopt cloud-based solutions
- Enhance Business Intelligence platform
- Implement data standards, governance and management system

#### **Evolution of EGA IT Shared Services**





EGA IT plans to operate as a shared services organization within the next 2-3 years



#### **Combine**

- Unify IT service catalog
- Standardize and integrate IT processes and tools
- Centralize basic IT functions and services to reduce costs and provide superior business support

#### Integrate

- Provide Enterprise IT services with structured service levels and metrics
- Adapt vendor management role as outsourcing increases to achieve additional savings

# **Optimize**

- Enable further efficiency and savings by migrating new functional groups (e.g. HR, Finance etc.) to shared services
- Optimize existing IT shared services by further outsourcing non-core services
- Establish IT service costing and chargeback capabilities

1+ years

2-3 years

4-5 years

**Continuous improvement** 

# **Lessons Learned from DUBAL and EMAL IT integration**



IT's recent integration experience provides a platform for establishing a repeatable, best practice approach for future use

# What went well...

Defined IT's leadership structure early

A successful and issue-free Day 1, despite uncertainty on timelines

Good planning and governance with dedicated IT team

Good communication with business

Prioritized Day 1 initiatives over business-asusual and post-day 1 requirements

# Even better if...

Managed staff retention by identifying and engaging key IT personnel

Better identification and management of cultural differences

Leveraged strengths and capacity of IT vendors

Greater urgency in post day 1 activity plans

Balanced business and IT requirements (IT M&A was driven mainly by business needs)

# **Way Forward**



EGA IT needs to undertake a number of steps to successfully complete post-merger integration and execute the strategic roadmap

Socialize IT Strategy
-----------------------

 Conduct a series of IT Strategy roadshows to familiarize key business and IT stakeholders using scenarios where applicable

# Establish IT Strategy execution team

• Establish ownership for the IT Strategy execution team with mandate and clear roles

#### **Build business roadmaps**

 Engage with EGA functional areas to establish requirements and develop business roadmaps

#### **Confirm IT funding**

• Confirm IT budget for the IT strategy timeframe in consultation with the Executive Committee

#### **Detail strategic initiatives**

• Develop charters for each IT initiative covering scope, dependencies, estimated duration, effort, benefits and costs

# Finalize detailed IT implementation plan

 Develop and roll out a detailed IT plan to the broader IT and business organizations (before the end of 2014)

#### **Report on metrics**

• Measure and report progress against the IT roadmap, at least twice a year



# **Q & A**

