



Monat	2023.01	2023.02	2023.03	2023.04	2023.05	2023.06	2023.07	2023.08	2023.09	2023.10	2023.11	2023.12	2024.01	2024.02	2024.03	2024.04
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Efficient Liquidity Planning with Unit4 FP&A at Carl Knauber Holding GmbH & Co KG

Carl Knauber Holding, the holding company of the Knauber Group and a medium-sized energy provider from Bonn, was faced with the challenge of optimizing and automating its Liquidity Planning. Previously, this was done in Excel and proved to be time-consuming and error prone. To improve this process, the company decided to work with smartPM.solutions and implemented Unit4 FP&A.



About Knauber

The Knauber Group is a competent and diversified energy heat and mobility supplier. With a size of 170 employees, the company is well positioned in the energy sector and strives for continuous growth.

FACTS about KNAUBER

- Founded:** 1901
- Employees:** 170
- Turnover:** € 556 million
- Headquarters:** Bonn, GER



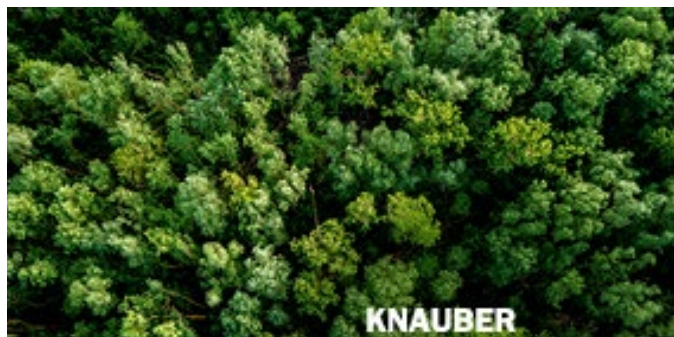
Carina Fusswinkel - Head of Finance, Knauber:



"The implementation of Unit4 FP&A has taken our Liquidity Planning and Forecasting processes to a new level. We used to spend hours with Excel juggling tables to create accurate planning. Now, at the touch of a button, we can generate detailed Liquidity Previews on a weekly basis and have a seamless connection to Forecasting. This not only saves us an enormous amount of time, but also gives us a precise picture of our financial situation."

INITIAL SITUATION

Prior to the project, the company used Excel for planning. The **manual creation and updating of Liquidity Planning required a lot of time and effort** from the controlling staff. This took up valuable resources that could be used for value adding tasks. The use of Excel **increased the risk of errors and inaccuracies**.



The limited functions and options for planning **lacked advanced features such as a Detailed Liquidity Preview on a weekly basis and a seamless connection to Forecasting**. Carl Knauber Holding GmbH & Co KG recognized the **need to upgrade to an automated solution to save time and improve planning accuracy**.



Matthias Engels – FP&A, Knauber:



"Thanks to smartPM.solutions, we were able to complete the Unit4 FP&A implementation project quickly and efficiently. The close collaboration with the team was outstanding. They quickly understood our requirements and were able to support us with their expertise and best-practice solutions. The implementation went smoothly, and we were able to quickly integrate the system into our workflow."

PROJECT GOALS

- › **Weekly Liquidity Planning according to the direct method**
- › **Automation** through connection of various interfaces
- › **Optimize Forecasting**
- › **Create accurate Liquidity Planning** based on current forecasts
- › **Quality improvement** in data preparation
- › **All sub-plans integrated in one solution**



Carina Fusswinkel - Head of Finance, Knauber:



"The cooperation with smartPM.solutions was extremely valuable for us. Their team was not only technically competent, but also very committed and cooperative. In a brief time, we have developed a tailor-made solution that is perfectly suited to our requirements. The support of smartPM.solutions has helped us successfully complete a quick implementation with a small feedback loop of Unit4 FP&A and take full advantage of this powerful software. Our requirements were understood quickly and rapidly implemented with an open exchange of best practice."

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION in 4 steps

- Implementation** (February): Kick-off with the smartPM.solutions team. Meeting in which the **project goals, requirements and schedule** were defined. **Extensive knowledge sharing** took place in order to deepen our understanding of the business processes and the requirements of the company.
- Liquidity Planning** (February - March): After the kick-off meeting, the smartPM team started the implementation of the Liquidity Planning in Unit4 FP&A and BI Technology. The **existing data from the source systems was imported into Unit4 FP&A** and **adjustments were made accordingly.**

Liquiditätsplanung Personalplanung
P - 2023 FC

Periode: 2023 FC
Kalenderwoche: 20
Variante: Base Case
Legal-Einheit:
Aktualisieren:

Monat	2023 05		2023 06			2023 07		2023 08		2023 09		2023 10		2023 11		2023 12		2024 01		2024 02	
	IST KW 19	PLAN KW 19	Abw.	KW 20	KW 21	KW 22	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total	KW Total
Kennzahlen	# Tage			7	7	3	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	30	31	31	31	31	29		
Gehälter,Löhne																					
Einmalzahlungen																					
Altersversorgung																					
Soziallasten																					
Personalkosten																					

3. **Validation** of the data interface (March): After completion of the Liquidity Planning, a comprehensive validation of the data interface was carried out. This involved **checking the imported data for accuracy and consistency**. This validation ensured that the data was correctly transferred to Unit4 FP&A and allowed for accurate Analysis and Forecasting.
4. **User Acceptance Tests** (March): User Acceptance Tests (UAT) were carried out to ensure that the implemented solution meets the requirements of Carl Knauber Holding & Co KG. The **internal project team and selected users tested the functionalities and checked** whether the **Liquidity Planning, the Liquidity Forecast and the link to the Forecast** met expectations. Any feedback and adjustments were then taken into account to optimize the system.

CONCLUSION & LEARNINGS

- › **Significant improvement in Liquidity Planning**
- › Switch from Excel to an automated solution enables **more accurate and timely planning**
- › **Liquidity Preview on a weekly basis** and the **connection to the Forecast**
- › **Better overview** of the company's financial situation
- › **More informed decision-making**



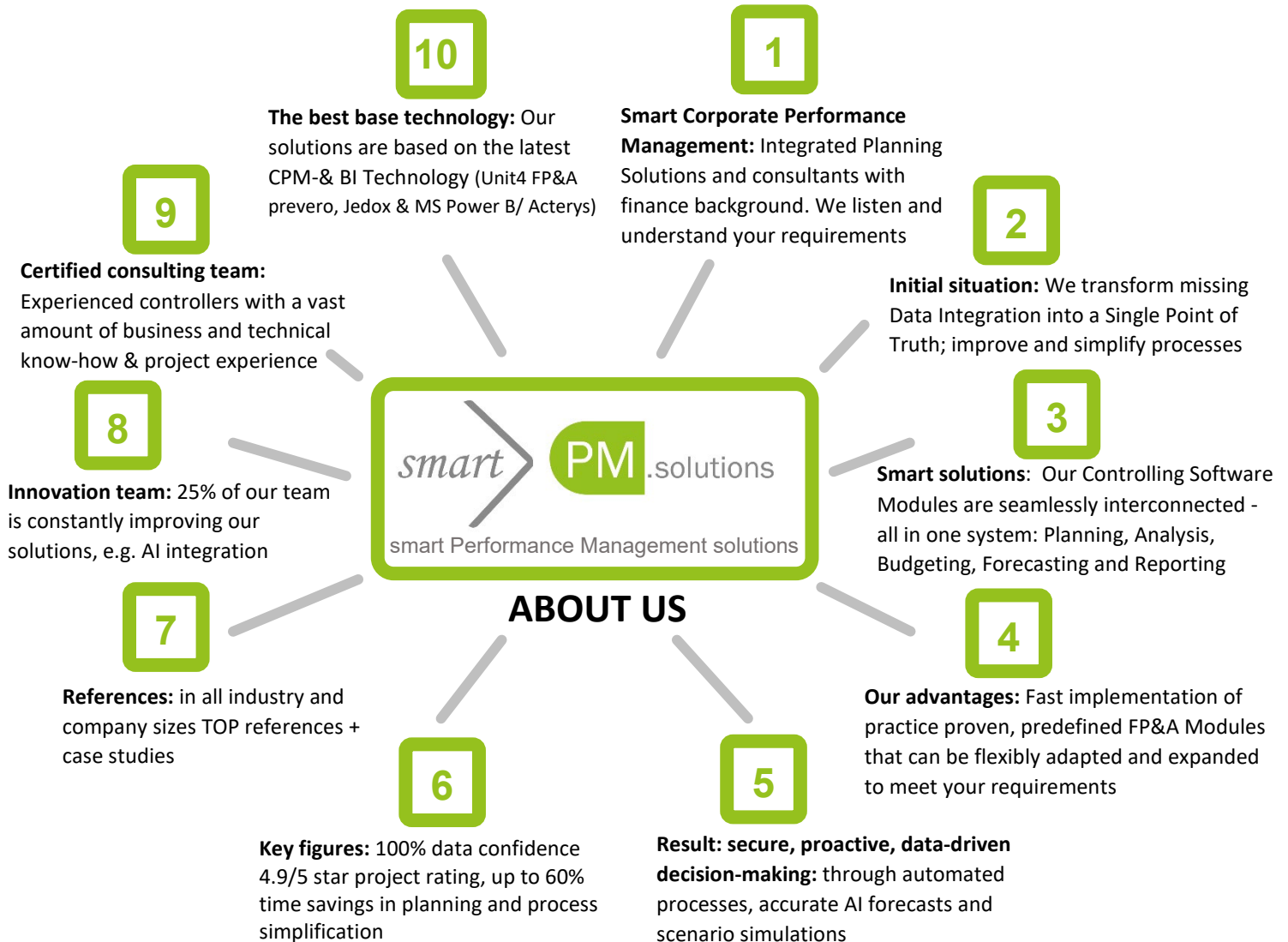
Matthias Engels – FP&A, Knauber:



"The improvements we have achieved through the implementation of Unit4 FP&A are impressive. Our Liquidity Planning has become more accurate and reliable. We have professionalized our view of our financial future and can react to possible bottlenecks in good time. That has eased the workload of our controlling team enormously and enables us to make more informed decisions."

You want to learn more and share your challenges with controllers? Then talk to one of our consultants.

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