

Audit of the key ICT project SUPERB – Subproject procurement

Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics

Key facts

The SAP R/3 currently used in the Federal Administration (Fed. Adm.) will be maintained only until the end of 2027 and must be replaced. The replacement will involve a change in technology to SAP S/4HANA. The simultaneous modernisation and standardisation of the support processes (finance, personnel, logistics, procurement and real estate) will take place within the civil Federal Administration with the SUPERB programme. With the "ERP Systems D/ar" (ERPSYSVAR) programme, the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport is also renewing the mission-critical systems at the same time as the support processes.

A uniform procurement process, known as the harmonised federal procurement solution, is being set up and installed nationwide. In terms of systems, the end-to-end process is comprised of elements from SAP and Acta Nova (GEVER¹). The SUPERB procurement project (SUPERB BES) is developing the SAP procurement process for the civilian side and ERPSYSVAR finance and procurement (ERPSYSVAR FINBE) is doing the same for the military side. GENOVA@BIL is developing and creating the process steps in Acta Nova for non-mission-critical procurements.

In this audit, the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) focused on the planning and implementation of the procurement process. The audit concentrated on the SUPERB procurement project. The project is ongoing and is being realigned due to the amended programme implementation method (step-by-step instead of parallel new construction). ERPSYSVAR finance and procurement and GENOVA@BIL were also included in the audit at certain points.

At the time of the audit, much of the work was still in the planning stage and implementation was still in the pipeline. The new procurement solution using SAP and Acta Nova creates the prerequisites for the desired nationwide harmonisation and standardisation. Although this objective will not be fully achieved, there is nevertheless a chance of significant improvement compared to the current situation. However, there are still some hurdles to overcome before the planned start of operations on 1 January 2025 (new implementation method).

Nationwide harmonisation and standardisation of the procurement process will not be fully achieved

The objective of introducing a standardised procurement process across the entire Federal Administration (Fed. Adm.) cannot be achieved. The requirements of the ERPSYSVAR programme with regard to the mission-critical system simply do not allow the implementation of the standard nationwide procurement processes.

¹ GEVER is the central system for electronic business administration in the Federal Administration

The consensus solution reached represents the largest intersection of the common processes and affords the mission-critical side a design that deviates from the nationwide procurement core in the areas that are supported by the Defence & Security standard solution.

The most far-reaching standardisation of the new joint procurement process in the Federal Administration can only be achieved with the complete replacement of the federal contract management solution that is currently in use.

The timely commissioning of the Central Procurement Hub must be ensured

Due to the new programme implementation method, the first step is to port the current SAP system to the new HANA database. In a second step, the current federal contract management solution will be converted to the new SAP software S/4. In parallel to these two steps, the extension to the target core must be performed. This procedure is demanding and accordingly resource intensive.

The basis of the common procurement core between SUPERB and ERPSYSVAR is the Central Procurement Hub (CPH), via which both systems can be connected and common catalogues and/or e-shops can be accessed. Based on the current roadmap of the ERPSYSVAR programme, the CPH must be available by 1 January 2025.

The interfaces between SAP and Acta Nova are key to the end-to-end procurement process

The interfaces between SAP and Acta Nova play an important role in ensuring that the cross-system end-to-end procurement process can be used seamlessly. At the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL), two projects are being run to map the overall process: the SUPERB procurement project and GENOVA@BIL. The two projects have different project sponsors and are not run under the joint auspices of the SUPERB programme. For this reason, the SFAO recommends considering merging the two projects, or at least integrating GENOVA@BIL into the SUPERB programme.

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