Knorr-Bremse: Speeding Railway Development with SAP® Portfolio and Project Management

Knorr-Bremse AG helps keep global traffic running efficiently, safely, and cost-effectively with its expertly engineered braking systems for trains and commercial vehicles. Based in Munich, Germany, the engineering giant pioneered the development and production of state-of-the-art braking systems. But critical million-euro projects and global procurement of resources pushed the limits of project planning. Knorr-Bremse had to establish a single software platform worldwide to keep its rail projects – and any similar future projects in its commercial vehicles division – on track.

With the SAP® Portfolio and Project Management application, it gained an overview of project content and required resources. The resulting boost in engineering efficiency enabled Knorr-Bremse to reduce project cost while keeping rail passengers and goods rolling into stations on time.
Increasing engineering efficiency
With higher transparency into the portfolio

Objectives
• Establish a single global platform to improve project management in the rail division of Knorr-Bremse Group
• Optimize collaboration with global customers and internal staff across over 100 locations on 5 continents
• Replace legacy systems with a standard SAP® solution that is integrated with the SAP ERP application

Resolution
• Implement the SAP Portfolio and Project Management application to gain transparency over more than 2,000 customer and R&D projects worldwide
• Streamline management of long-term development projects and reduce complexity

Benefits
• Greater transparency of multiple parallel projects across locations and regions
• More efficient global collaboration
• Cost reduction due to improved transparency of content, time, resource allocation, and cost of projects and earlier detection of deviations in project cost
• Higher transparency of ongoing development projects

“An overview of cost, time, and content progress along with possible deviations in projects is the basis on which to manage complex global projects in an efficient way.”

Christian Hilse, Head of Project Management Office Rail, Knorr-Bremse AG