SYSPRO News and SYSPRO's Smart Manufacturing with BKB

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IDC's Quick Take

SYSPRO, an Operational and Manufacturing ERP technology vendor, has helped many companies advance in their use of technology to run their operations and manufacturing. In 2014, SYSPRO was deployed at BKB to help the company digitally transform. SYSPRO became the architectural foundation from which BKB's digital transformation journey started. This link shares the SYSPRO story and also the value BKB achieved teaming with SYSPRO on its digital transformation journey.

Product Announcement Highlights

SYSPRO had a few new announcements in June. Geoff Garret is the new CEO for SYSPRO USA. Geoff's focus is on opening up the unlimited growth potential for SYSPRO. In a recent briefing with IDC, Geoff outlined plans to "Catapult" the company forward with a focus on building a deeper relationship with CESMII & CMTC; a new aggregated organization; a focus on leadership in technology delivery; connected services; and testimonial proof points such as BKB.

SYSPRO is working to become a member with CESMII-Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute and strengthening its relationship with CMTC- California Manufacturing Technology Center. Both organizations are defining changes within the manufacturing areas, a sweet spot for SYSPRO. SYSPRO is one partner within CESMII focused on building a smart manufacturing platform.

The renewed focus by SYSPRO on one SYSPRO will help SYSPRO penetrate more market share in the US. SYSPRO is focused on innovation such as AI, machine learning, IoT, social ERP and Industry 4.0.

SYSPRO has also announced connected services, which enables customers to extend their SYSPRO ERP application to integrate with the entire ecosystem within and beyond their enterprise. Intelligent devices such as IOT, business partners and other systems including on-premises and cloud, SYSPRO ERP provides connected services that enable flexible interactions and orchestrate data, messages and business models. Connected services is a pay per use consumption-based ERP model enabling scale. SYSPRO is the hub connected to other connected services (a platform) via digital moments that move information and processes forward. SYSPRO connected services helps transition companies onto a digital transformation journey.

SYSPRO client BKB, an African provider of agricultural products, has been focused on digital transformation since 2014 when it brought SYSPRO in as its foundational manufacturing ERP system. BKB was founded in 1919 having grown to over 67,000 clients with needs met by 1,543 full time employees and 2,110 seasonal employees. Jaco Maass, General Manager, BKB, has been focused on digital transformation and managing Industry 4.0 challenges at BKB. BKB is focused on driving economic growth in Africa by a facilitating role of promoting agricultural growth; specifically by bringing more business to the African market by enabling digital transformation and by empowering local communities for more sustainable levels of agricultural production.   SYSPRO has enabled BKB to build a digital transformation plan that enables the organization to scale faster, be more agile and enhance growth.

BKB has one of the largest sheep shearing organizations in the world, shearing 6+million sheep a year, which is approximately 63% of South Africa's wool clip. They also host about 6 livestock auctions every day of the week. The transformation strategy has been steadily advancing with incorporating Microsoft Azure, Microsoft Power BI and integrated SYSPRO innovation in IoT (through RFID tags in the sheep's ear) aiding the movement of sheep. The tag becomes a digital twin of the sheep as it moves through the network. BKB can collect the digital profile data on each sheep and can see it move to an e-commerce or auctioning platform. The digital twin allows all the information on each sheep to be captured including age, breed, gender, feed conversion and growth history.

According to Maass, "Now buyers don't necessarily have to see the animal to start trading with it. It has become a great example of how technology is meeting business needs." This has also allowed BKB to track the sheep supplying the wool for a consumer product. Through data provided by the BKB blockchain, the consumer can be assured that the wool in their garments was ethically sourced and is cruelty free. Additional data can be provided about the wool value chain, including where the sheep was raised, and even information about the farmer that was benefited by the purchase of the wool. Ethically sourced, cruelty free products command a premium in the market, and both the local supplier and BKB benefit from this advanced tracking.

All of this has not only simplified BKB's production, but also digitized much of the information and workflows, regardless of physical work streams. BKB has proven it can aggregate business insights, optimize its supply chain and centralize its technology system in the cloud. While advancing on social issues such as ethical sourcing and cruelty free products.

IDC's Point of View

Digital transformation continues to be a driver of technology solutions from modern ERP and associated applications, cloud, IoT, AI/machine learning and digitizing the business workflows.   Digital transformation happens with a vision and strategy, digital core and foundation, investment in technology and change management for the entire organization. SYSPRO has enabled BKB to make the move to digital by being the foundational ERP technology system. In addition, SYSPRO is fueling its growth by bringing continued innovation into its products, continued technology and geographic expansion investment, and by demonstrating results with clients like BKB who can demonstrate digital transformation with SYSPRO ERP at their core.

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