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Title: SIFAC: an Inter-Universities and SAP Collaboration To Transform Public University Management in France

Abstract: Institutions of Higher Education must work together on their future organizational plans, and the technology required to execute them. Along with all Universities concerned, this collaboration must include government agencies and technology companies.

With the agreement of the AMUE (Agence pour la Mutualisation des Universités) organization, we have developed an 11-month project to define and implement SIFAC (Systeme d'Information Financier, Analytique et Comptable), an integrated SAP-based financial and analytical management information system for French public universities.

8 pilot universities have worked together to build this major project, which includes the extensive modernization of financial procedures to fulfill new state requirements. The aim of this project was to build a stable core with minimum add-on local modifications in order to extend it in an "industrial-way" to other universities. About 40 sites have already expressed their intension to acquire the system next year.

In this presentation, the UPMC chosen solution will be discussed as well as the investment in human and financial resources required for such a project. The presentation will include a discussion of the best practices established between the 8 Sifac pilot establishments involved, namely Cnam and the Universities of Lille 3, Nancy 1, Nancy 2, Nantes, UPMC Paris 6, Paris 7 and Rennes 1. Collaboratively, they have worked together to conceive the solution, to prepare the deployment (that is to say to define business processes and to define their technical landscapes), and to implement the solution.

The major driver of the SAP-based financial management system was the need to replace the legacy "Nabuco" system with one which conformed to regulatory requirements such as regulation M 9-3, which supported cost accounting, which would integrate future change such as the requirements of LOLF, and which would generally enable accountability of financial operations.

SAP is an established provider of business applications and business process platform technology to Higher Education and Research. Because of the stability, functionality and maturity of the SAP solution, Sifac will be user-friendly, will integrate several business areas, will safeguard the integrity of data, will provide role-based access to data and reports. In short, the SAP solution will simplify and standardize processes according to best business practices.

Biography: Malcolm Woodfield was born in England and educated at Cambridge University where he obtained his Ph.D., which was published by Oxford University Press. After a successful career as a widely-published academic and University administrator in the UK and USA, Dr. Woodfield joined SAP in 1997 to help build their Higher Education and Research practice. He drove development of the SAP Student Information System,



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now known as SAP Student Lifecycle Management, and its adoption by Universities in the USA, Latin America, UK,

Europe, and Asia. Since 1997 he has remained exclusively focused on expanding the SAP solution for Education, and its adoption by Colleges, Universities, and schools globally. He is responsible for advising SAP regarding technology trends and requirements in the Education sector, and for managing relations with the several hundred Colleges and Universities using SAP technology for teaching, research, and administration. He has spoken at numerous conferences and events worldwide on how Universities can plan and execute Information Technology strategies to achieve their institutional, academic, research, social, and financial goals. Dr Woodfield travels extensively, but is based in Los Angeles where he lives with his wife and two children.