

# SAP launches next-gen, HANA-based Business Suite

Vendor promises 'Facebook-like' user experience and real-time performance

## ERP

At a launch event at the New York Stock Exchange, SAP last month took the wraps off its next-generation business suite, dubbed SAP Business Suite 4 SAP HANA, or S/4HANA.

The new product is fully built on the HANA in-memory platform, SAP said, though the vendor said that one of the main selling points would be the reworked user experience, which is aimed at simplifying things for customers. Speaking to *Arabian Computer News* ahead of the launch, SAP CEO Bill McDermott promised "Facebook-like quality and beauty".

"It's beautiful to consume on the mobile, and completely game changing," he said. McDermott added that S/4HANA was "the biggest launch that SAP will have done in the last 20 years".

In terms of its capabilities, SAP said that S/4HANA will offer cloud, on-premise and hybrid deployment options, and that it leverages the in-memory and real-time capabilities of HANA - indeed, the new suite is only built for HANA. With this, the vendor promised the ability to use the solution on almost any device, a simplified data model, on-the-fly insight and real-time business processes.

At the launch event, McDermott said: "When Hasso Plattner invented SAP HANA, we knew the day would come for SAP Busi-



McDermott: This solution is game-changing

ness Suite to be reinvented for the digital age. At a moment when businesses around the world need to enter new markets and engage with their consumers in any channel, there's now an innovation platform designed to drive their growth. This is an historic day and we believe it marks the beginning of the end for the 20th century IT stack and all the complexity that came with it."

SAP said that one of the main focus points of S/4HANA was to support the development of new business models by accelerating adoption of the internet of things and big data.

SAP added that S/4HANA will also expand its portfolio of cloud solutions such as those from SAP companies Ariba, Fieldglass and SuccessFactors. SAP said it would allow customers to define their own pace to the cloud based on their needs while keeping all the integration and business benefits of their existing SAP solutions.

## 6 TIPS FOR OUTSOURCING YOUR DATA CENTRE

eHostingDataFort (eHDF) last month claimed that organisations in the Middle East are embracing the idea of data centre leasing, but warned that this was putting pressure on data centre providers. The company said that, as a result, data centre providers need to guarantee high SLAs. Yasser Zeindeldin, CEO of eHDF, offers six tips for enterprises looking to outsource their data centre operations.

### Quality

Assess the potential hosting provider's data centre tiers, which determine its quality and reliability as well as its capability to host your unique requirements.

### Scalability

Assess the capability and capacity of the potential hosting provider to keep pace with your business as you expand; will it have the resources to upgrade your IT ecosystem conveniently and in a cost-optimised manner.

### Certifications

It is important to know whether the potential hosting provider is certified through stringent auditing and follows industry best practices for service delivery and support.

### Track record

Ask the potential hosting provider for some customer references and obtain additional references through your own network.

### SLAs

Your potential hosting provider should be able to offer a concrete SLA, addressing all aspects of hosted data centre services such as power and cooling, network connectivity and server hardware.

### Support and security

Inquire about the level of security and support that your potential hosting provider will offer. It is important to know the number of support agents the company has and if they are certified, trained and experienced. Also, it is important to understand the escalation process if an issue arises and also the location of their support desk location.