



## Nederlandse Spoorwegen (Dutch Rail)

Dutch Rail, the principal passenger railway operator in the Netherlands, operates the second busiest rail network in the world with over 1.2 million train journeys each day. Alongside their operations in the Netherlands, they own several rail franchises in the UK and Germany through their subsidiary, Abellio.



### Challenges to address: Navigating the complex landscape of legacy systems and Covid-19 impacts

Dutch Rail faced a series of challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic caused a drop in passenger numbers, creating a need for cost reductions. Additionally, the company was transitioning towards more agile and flexible ways of working, a change that required an equally adaptable IT system.

Their legacy systems quickly became a roadblock on this journey. Costly to maintain, and there were concerns over the availability of security patches.

Dutch Rail also wanted to lay down the foundation to control data growth in their new S/4HANA system.



**Industry:**  
Public Sector

**Application:**  
S/4HANA Archiving &  
Decommissioning

**Product:**  
SAP ILM

### The solution: Bringing SAP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) on board

To overcome these challenges, Dutch Rail partnered with Proceed to implement SAP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) to decommission their legacy systems. The process included data extraction, setting up retention periods, and building a series of reports for user access. Proceed also ran knowledge transfer sessions to empower Dutch Rail's team to support the solution.

Additionally, Proceed implemented ILM on their S/4HANA system to support the archiving of live production data.

### The business benefits: Achieving efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainability

The project yielded significant benefits for Dutch Rail. Users could now access all the necessary legacy data, allowing for the legacy systems to be decommissioned. This change led to:

- A more agile, supportable, and secure IT landscape, ready to take advantage of SAP's new solutions and those of external partners.
- A 50% reduction in SAP legacy system maintenance costs, with additional savings anticipated upon the decommissioning of the remaining legacy systems.
- Shutting down the old SAP systems running on old hardware and transitioning to more modern systems for ILM, reducing energy consumption and contributing to sustainability goals.
- Reduced expenditure on external resources and enabling Dutch Rail's IT team to focus on more strategic work.
- An immediate reduction in data volume on S/4HANA, making it future-ready by controlling ongoing growth.

## Future prospects: Mapping the path to a more agile, compliance-ready, and sustainable business

With Proceed's help, Dutch Rail now has the right SAP data management strategy to control costs, meet legal, audit, and regulatory compliance requirements, and contribute to their "green" goals. They are now ready to move all systems to HANA and run the business on S/4HANA, delivering the agility their business demands. Dutch Rail plans to soon ask Proceed to decommission their remaining legacy systems using SAP ILM, further streamlining their IT infrastructure and enhancing operational efficiency.

*"As part of our longer-term strategy for SAP, we wanted to ensure we were only keeping data that we really needed. As renowned experts in SAP data management, Proceed Group were perfectly placed to help us optimise our data footprint across both our production S/4HANA system and a set of legacy applications. The project has achieved everything we wanted and we look forward to working with Proceed Group again."*

- Christian Brinkhuizen, Project Manager at NS (Dutch Railways)

## PROJECT STATS



Reduced their legacy system maintenance cost by 50%

## PROCEED OVERVIEW

Proceed Group has been running data management projects for over twenty years – helping hundreds of customers worldwide.

Our services include SAP archiving, content management as well as the decommissioning of SAP and non-SAP systems.

This combined with our team of expert consultants and our range of state of the art products, is the key to delivering success for our customers.

## Contact us to find out more

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