

Abas ERP

OVERVIEW:

Founded in 1980 abas has over 2,500 customers world- wide of which 300 plus are in North America. The target market for abas is custom manufacturing. The company serves customers from \$10M - \$80M in the Manufacturing, Distribution, and Service marketplaces that focus on Engineer-to-Order, Make-to-Order and Assemble-to-Order manufacturing. abas is a strong solution for electronics, metal fabricators, plastic injection molding, automotive and tier-two automotive. It has a separate distribution package and is strong for warehouse management. The system supports multi-plant, multi-currency, and 30 difference languages. Their source code runs in a separate layer so, according to abas, custom changes do not affect upgrade compatibility. Users can expect to spend at least \$100K for a 10-user system, \$40K for software, and \$50K + for training, implementation and customization.

Highlights –

- Multi-tier architecture that makes it flexible and allows upgradable solutions
- SaaS version runs over a browser and has a subscription price model.
- A suite of solutions that handle functions from purchasing and sales to materials management, production planning and accounting, along with flexible Internet-based e-Business solutions
- Strong warehouse (WH) management – manages WH groups, DRP auto replenishment between location with parameters set by WH like order demand min stock, custom demand for one WH, replenish orders for main and secondary WH. Good applications for POS (point of sale), web portals and e-commerce.
- Offers custom reports and applications
- Uses third parties for Payroll and MES (real-time shop floor control).
- Vendor claims that 93% of companies who have purchased abas are still customers today

Buyer alerts

Pros

Abas claims implementations are 25% quicker than industry standards, delivering a consistent ROI for abas customers.

With the extensive range of functions, its flexibility, and ease of use, abas claims it one of the better price/performance ratios in the industry.

Regular Upgrades – According to abas a new version is provided each year adding new functions and adopting new technologies, ensuring users are always up to date with the latest technology.

According to Abas, 30% of their code is written each year to keep technology up to date

Abas runs on Linux, Unix and Windows servers. Abas has supported Linux since 1996 because of its low costs, great stability and excellent performance. On the client side, it supports Windows 98 and

newer, ASCII terminals,

Customization - abas claims it can take your company's specific requirements such as business processes, screens and database structures, and easily integrate them into the ERP software and change them to fit your organizational structure. According to abas, when annual upgrades are completed, your individual modifications such as screen fields, custom reports, new functions and macros will not be affected and you can continue using the same functions made for your individual business

The intuitive user interface, process based screen structures, easy online help and data visualization allow users to work securely, intuitively, and effectively with abas.

International and Multi lingual - abas is multi-currency and offered in 30+ languages, with additional languages available upon request. Customers can work within the same database in different languages, enabling simplified workflow and communication between foreign subsidiaries. –

Limitations

Buyer alerts

Some users have complained about the user documentation being hard to understand due to a poor translation from German

Due to rapid growth, competency of project managers varies greatly. Be sure to lock down in your contract who will be working on your project and vet them carefully.

Not native MS SQL

Some users have experienced problematic outcomes when custom changes have been made to the system

Additional hardware will typically be required to back up the system locally

Limited number of installations compared to its competitors

Not suitable for Configure to order shops

APPLICATIONS:

Purchasing:

The purchasing function works as a continuous transaction, from the initial request to suggested purchase orders, actual purchase orders, receipt of goods and invoice verification. Working with purchase orders is a central purchasing component. In scheduling, suggested purchase orders are generated whenever demand exceeds supply. These suggested orders are then converted into requests and actual purchase orders. Blanket orders can also be maintained. For each purchase order item, purchase order management is linked to both financial and cost accounting through cost centers, cost objects and accounting assignments.

Sales:

The sales process can begin by creating a quote which is converted through sales order management, and then through outgoing goods and invoicing. Additional functions like quotation and revenue statistics, commission calculation, archiving and several others are also included. The sales function allows an up to date view of customer business relations and product sales trends. Abas helps deliver products using minimum inventory levels, resulting in optimized stock levels. CRM functions can also be developed using the CRM info system which is standard functionality.

Materials Management: -

- Warehouse management
- LIFO/FIFO management
- Lot creation
- Bundle and serial number management
- Inventory
- Material allocation
- Material valuation
- Lot management

Scheduling:

To ensure that your orders are processed on time, Scheduling makes sure that sufficient production material and capacity is available for each order. Scheduling generates procurement suggestions for purchasing, as well as matching compliance with due dates to determine the earliest possible final delivery dates.

Production Planning and Control (PPC):

According to abas their production function supports the manufacturing of your company's products, regardless of the kind of production employed (e.g. repetitive, lot or single production).

Material Valuation:

Material valuation assesses movements with the materials management cycle, recording these movements as financial entries whenever stock levels fluctuate. A preview of entries can easily be generated without affecting the financial accounting. You can also establish an inventory of unfinished products, as well as the valuation of manufacturing costs. If valuation prices are not available when a quantity is entered, then a revaluation is implemented through the material valuation once the price becomes available. Material costs determined by material valuation are then transferred to cost accounting.

Cost Accounting:

Cost accounting utilizes cost types, cost centers and cost objects to create multi dimensional accounting. The cost center accounting includes the function IAAA (Internal Account Activity Allocation). In addition to IAAA, overheads can be posted to the cost objects. Cost center accounting can be structured according to the flexible standard costing principle.. Cost accounting integrates data from diverse modules such as financial and fixed asset accounting. Using *Material valuation* and

Valuation of production activity modules, it also integrates data from material valuation and production areas.

Group Accounting:

The product is multi-company enabled. In one instance of abas a client can either set up multiple companies or consolidated and related companies. Using the group accounting function, balance sheets for individual businesses can be combined to compile an annual statement that shows group reporting. For this function, group internal and group external processes are differentiated by accounts.

Financial Accounting:

Financial accounting enables you to track your finances for all transactions. It provides you with a thorough overview of all the financial transactions and lets you access data from prior fiscal years. By maintaining a history of transactions, it's easy to carry out monthly comparisons by working with both planned and actual figures. Target/actual comparisons can be user defined over any given time frame.

Fixed Asset Accounting:

Fixed asset accounting in abas is used to manage fixed assets in your inventory, regardless of the industry. It enables both qualitative and quantitative overview of the available assets. Included are all year end closing evaluations, such as the asset history sheet.

EDI Electronic Data Interchange:

With the EDI function you can automatically exchange structured business documents (VDA/ODETTE/EDIFACT/ANSI) between the application programs of your business partners. EDI implementation brings full control of the entire product, data and money flow. Companies are supported by abas /Automotive in managing complex supply chain processes and coordinating all predetermined logistical processes between manufacturer and supplier.

Infosystems:

InfoSystems are unique tools that provides any user or user group do their job from one screen. Any set of master data, transaction data, queries, reports, work flow, drill down, and process flow can be managed and maintained from a single interface. Over 400 InfoSystems are delivered with the system and include workflow based on best practices. All Infosystems can be changed to fit any requirement. The result is a Workbench that provides users with access to all information and programs to fulfill any business process, speeds adoption and training, and gives users all the information they need at their fingertips without leaving their active screen.

As an example, the Sales & Purchasing Infosystem provides all the data and workflow necessary to create and convert quotes to orders, to shipping to shipment tracking, to invoicing, create new customers, parts and transactions without ever leaving the screen. It's easy to configure specific workflow requirements, inquiries, information processing and any number of reports and evaluations

Add-Ons:

You can integrate a variety of add on solutions to complete your installation. Through either our cooperation partners or abas APIs, there are a broad spectrum of solutions which work efficiently and profitably when used in connection with abas:

- Integration with E mail and fax solutions
- Management Information Systems
- Barcode scanning
- Mobile order entry
- Human resources management
- Project management
- SCM
- Sales information system
- Integration with MS Office / Open Office
- Smartphones
- Business Intelligence / Data Warehouse
- CAD / CAQ
- Document Management / Archiving
- EDI
- Export and shipping dispatch
- Advanced planning

Firewall Solutions:

Open Interfaces:

External IT systems are integrated using both the abas and DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) standard interfaces. For customer convenience, ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) and ActiveX standard interfaces are also available as an option.

Maintenance and Support:

The maintenance and support program provides customers with continual telephone, web, and email support. The program also includes the annual upgrade, which guarantees a 24 hour upgrade for customers from their current version of abas to the next available version.

Portal:

The abas Portal allows for a consolidated view of company information utilizing individual personalization and customization. The abas portal allows users to manage their data, applications and information more easily through these personalized views. Its portal solution provides visualization of any data or process and can include workflow management, collaboration between work groups, and policy managed content publication. The Portal allows internal and external access to specific company information using secure authentication and can push information out to individuals or groups. This means that users no longer need to run reports or queries but instead abas will push the data out in real time to their desk tops or remote devices (i.e. smart phones). Moreover, data is presented in an intuitive and graphical view.

CRM and Customer Service

- Manage Customers and Prospects
- Create and manage tasks for yourself and others
- Enter notes and opportunities for customers and prospects
- All business correspondences can be archived with an optional DMS (Document Management System).
- Outlook email and calendar integration
- Manage mass email and mail campaigns
- Forecast/manage and report on sales opportunities
- Create and manage quotes, sales orders, and invoices from a single screen
- Telephone integration