

## SUCCESS STORY



**“Thanks to Meisterplan we can make better project portfolio decisions for the benefit of our clients.”**

-Marcus Plach, Managing Director, Ergosign GmbH

**ERGOSIGN**  
SHAPING INTERACTION.



## AT A GLANCE



# Better portfolio planning, equals successful projects.

### 01 THE CHALLENGE

Ergosign, a multi-million dollar IT-consulting company with four subsidiaries was in need for clear and concise project portfolio management. The company designs, optimizes and implements unique user interfaces for enterprise, industry and medical applications as well as for mobile devices and consumer products. Ergosign's previous PPM was employed through Excel and a customized SAP application. Bottlenecks and resource management problems soon formed. Using the two systems as a medium for analysis was not bringing the desired results to optimize their project portfolio and effectively manage the company.

### 02 THE SOLUTION

To gain insight in the project portfolio and resource planning, Managing Director Marcus Plach implemented Meisterplan. Since July of 2014, Ergosign reaps the benefits of simplified and concise project portfolio planning. With the simple click of a button, managers can easily see the status of all projects and if there are any resource issues. The clean, well-organized and easy to use software allows for scenario simulations and immediate changes. Gone are the days of lengthy, confusing and inaccurate pipeline and resource management reports. Today the company profits from vital project portfolio reports used to better steer their business.

### 03 BENEFITS

Real-time representation of actual projects and the simulation for alternative scenarios are available for each user. "Thanks to Meisterplan, we can now see if planned projects will run over, or if there are resource conflicts. Thus, we are able to make better decisions as a team, for the benefit of our clients."

- Marcus Plach.

### THE COMPANY

- Branch: IT Consulting
- Founded in 2000
- 80 Employees
- 5 Locations: Saarbrücken, Hamburg, München, Berlin, Zürich

### MEISTERPLAN

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

- Administration for 80 resources in Meisterplan
- Portfolio Planning for 0 - 200 projects
- Interface to SAP Business by Design
- License Model: SaaS

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# “Meisterplan gives us transparency in capacity to fully utilize our resources.”

### THE BACKDROP

Ergosign is a tech company that designs, optimizes and implements customized user interfaces for enterprise, industry and medical applications, as well as mobile devices and consumer products. The company works with an array of different fields, ranging from manufacturing to services. As the company experienced significant growth between its five locations, accurate project portfolio management became a necessity.

How Ergosign Functions - As soon as a client project is defined, an Ergosign expert lays out the project's schedule via a user-interface. This workspace is housed within their proprietary PM software and is categorized by project type and scope. Uniform cost-expenditure reporting is automatically aligned along with their best-practice process models. Overall their internal system provides high-level transparency in relation to the planned budget and time constraints for each project.

To gain an overview of their project portfolio, Ergosign previously relied on a hybrid of Excel and a custom SAP application, Business by Design. Data was spread between these two applications. The tools were utilized respective to what was needed:

resource allocation planning and detailed project management, controlling and resource management. Nonetheless, this system left a large gap for error as it wasn't able to provide a thorough project portfolio and resource overview. Important client considerations were not taken into account, and jeopardized the strong service-orientation of Ergosign.

### FASTER ANSWERS: MEISTERPLAN PROVIDES TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTS

Meisterplan was implemented in July of 2014 and gave each user an overview for their project division.

For the first time, Ergosign has data of a different caliber: rich and dynamic, and in one system, Meisterplan. All data is aggregated in Meisterplan providing a comprehensive overview of the actual status of projects. Meisterplan neatly displays the project portfolio along with the finances and resources available for all planned activities. In one glance, the true project portfolio status is visible. Answers are immediately available to urgent questions like:

- What's the status of our projects?
- Who's working on what?
- Are there resource conflicts or bottlenecks?

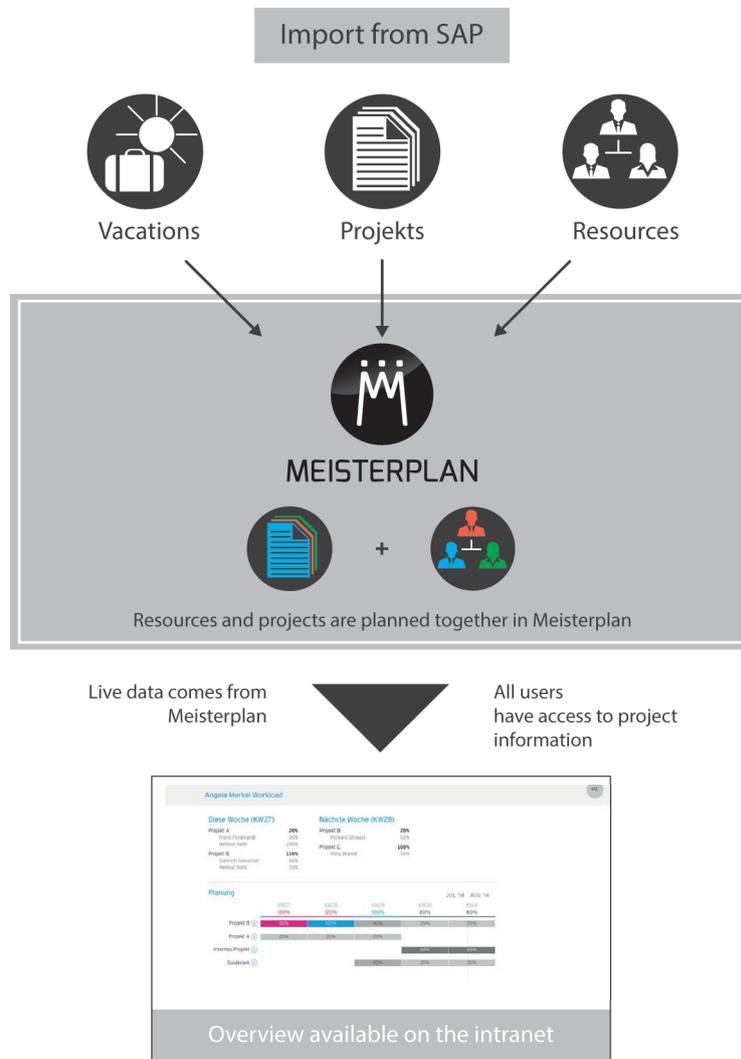


Figure: Trouble-free data integration takes care of heterogenous data

Ergosign plans 80 resources in up to 200 parallel client projects in Meisterplan. The projects are imported from their existing PM software using a specific interface via web services. Now, in one easy-to-read overview, all of the complete and actual project data is visible. In just a few clicks using the graphic interface, quick and clean simulation possibilities can be rendered. The software takes into account all of the defined constraints (running time, resources and customer requirements), and displays where bottlenecks or resource problems are.

Using Meisterplan, each Ergosign user is ensured of transparent and complete information to optimize and maintain a healthy portfolio. The system provides a comprehensive portfolio synopsis to properly address such questions as: Can we really implement and complete all of the planned projects? Do we have the capacity to take on more projects?

Where are the bottlenecks occurring? What can we change to obtain a healthy and optimal portfolio?

**BETTER DECISIONS: MEISTERPLAN INFORMS EACH USER WITH UP-TO-DATE DATA**

By essentially pressing “one button” in Meisterplan, the Ergosign project managers can provide up-to-the minute information on the portfolio. Gone are the days of manually composing, time consuming and costly reports. Meisterplan comprises valuable and helpful information about all projects, detailing which projects are in danger of running over as well as how overages could affect budget and scope ranges.

**TECHNICALITIES: HOW MEISTERPLAN WORKS**

Meisterplan runs on the company's existing PPM either on premise or in the cloud. The data is easily imported from Excel as can also be imported from

other data sources. During the upload, a functionality prevents the duplication of data through a filter feature allowing the user to create import rules. Each user is given defined access and the ability to simulate different scenarios when needed. User rights and portfolio viewing can be managed or even restricted. Scenarios can be saved and exported allowing for constructive and collaborative discussions, all with the end goal of optimizing the portfolio and driving the business.

The results? Detailed and precise management reports clearly detailing a synopsis of where the portfolio is over the corresponding time. All data is documented in real time, and without the additional effort. Any needed changes can be easily made on the spot creating scenarios that can be saved. This gives the

user a precise overview on their project portfolio and powers them with better decision making capabilities.

Marcus Plach of Ergosign states: "Ergosign revolves 100% around the clients and their users. Using the output from Meisterplan, we are really able to concentrate on our clients. This unique concept of dynamically combining the available data into one tool simplifies and accelerates the decision-making process. All teams have an information grip and planning status. Meisterplan gives us the transparency and capacity to fully utilize our resources. Seamlessly integrating this information along with using the Ergosign best practices we can simultaneously raise the level of satisfaction for our clients and employees. And what could be better service than that?"



#### ERGOSIGN - USER EXPERIENCE = TOP PRIORITY

Good user interaction (UI) design, an outstanding user experience (UX) and easy and intuitive interaction possibilities are the firm's overlapping subject matters. With analytical competence, innovation friendliness and a feel for brilliant design, Ergosign designs software to optimize the interactions between people and machines. The company's goal is to create a satisfying user experience that corresponds to the growing digital world. Each individual solution is not "out of the box", rather it fits exactly to the tailored project plan, outlined with the expertise and Ergosign best-practice process models. Intelligent communication, therefore, must play a seamless key role in harmonizing project portfolio management.

#### ABOUT MEISTERPLAN

Meisterplan is an interactive project portfolio management software. The software enables key decision makers with the ability to understand complex working dependencies and restrictions. Working with the software enhances high-quality decision making to maximize priorities, budgeting and resource planning.

#### ABOUT ITDESIGN

With more than 15 years of experience in project and portfolio management, itdesign specializes in the development of resource intelligence systems for management support. The company prides itself on long-term satisfied client relationships. Meisterplan software is an itdesign developed product, the direct result of solid client communication, and the need for high-level project portfolio planning.

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For more information, please visit  
[www.itdesign.de](http://www.itdesign.de)



# Is your overview for resource allocation lost?

# Test Meisterplan now for free at [meisterplan.com](http://meisterplan.com).

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