



**Customer:** ABB

**Web Site:** [www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)

**Country or Region:** Sweden

**Industry:** Manufacturing

**Partner:** Camako

#### Customer Profile

ABB, a leader in power and automation technology, is improving its performance and reducing the impact on the environment for power companies and industries.

#### Software and Services

- Microsoft Server Product Portfolio
  - Microsoft Office Project Server 2003
- Microsoft Office System
  - Microsoft Office Project Professional 2003
  - Microsoft Office Project Web Access

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## Swedish Company Increases Efficiency of Processes with Project Management Solution

“Using the Microsoft EPM solution, we can plan projects using a system everyone is familiar with.”

Fredrik Langanger, Planning Manager, ABB Power Transformers

*The power transformer division of Swedish company ABB produces around 80 transformers every year. As the business continues to grow, it has become increasingly important for ABB to ensure better control of its ongoing projects. Previously, the company used a number of systems to manage project planning. After replacing them with a Microsoft® Enterprise Project Management solution, ABB has taken control of its entire production process.*

#### Business Needs

Based in Ludvika, Sweden, the power transformer division of ABB produces around 80 transformers every year. These highly customised transformers—which weigh anything from 20 to 500 tonnes—are produced in 50 to 80 working days.

With so many different projects, it is important to use a single planning system. For the overall business to run efficiently, projects managed by separate teams need to be properly coordinated. In addition, people need accurate and timely information to make the right decisions. Microsoft® Office Enterprise Project Management (EPM) solutions are project-management tools designed to meet these types of challenges.

In the past, ABB used a number of systems and tools for resource planning. With a disparate infrastructure, the same activity for an order could have different data sets, depending on which system was being accessed. To stay ahead of competitors, ABB needed to introduce a single resource planning system—for master and detailed planning—making processes more transparent and accessible throughout the organisation.

Curt Karlsson, IT Planner, ABB Power Transformers, says: “Previously, master planning was handled in one system, while detailed planning was handled across several other systems. This meant there was



often different data for the same activity in the various systems, which created uncertainty about which schedule was correct.”

## Solution

In 2002, ABB started searching for a standard system that could support its entire project planning processes. After evaluating a number of products on the market, the company replaced its existing resource planning tools with a Microsoft EPM solution, used for coordinating and standardising projects.

Fredrik Langanger, Planning Manager at ABB Power Transformers, says: “After carrying out some market analysis, we decided to run an extensive workshop using Microsoft Office Project Professional 2003, along with Microsoft Office Project Server 2003 and Microsoft Office Project Web Access. We worked with local technical consultant and Microsoft Certified Partner Camako to customise the solution to our business. We started the production process toward the end of 2003, and it has worked really well.”

ABB Power Transformers now uses Microsoft EPM technologies to manage all transformer production in five groups, with a master project and four sub-projects. The five projects are combined to form a master project for each transformer unit.

Magnus Holmlid, Senior Consultant, Camako, says: “ABB looked at the EPM solution and needed a Microsoft partner that had years of experience in implementation and support for these solutions. ABB approached us because we are an IT consultancy firm with lengthy experience with Microsoft EPM deployments.

“With this solution, ABB managers receive a complete company overview and can easily

schedule resources for the whole of the production process. Users can also see when orders are received and compare their progress with the commitments already made.”

ABB selected the Microsoft EPM technology because it is easy to use and delivers the functionality the company requires. Add to the mix a number of development features to create specially customised solutions, and it’s easy to see why Microsoft EPM was the natural choice for ABB.

## Benefits

All ABB Power Transformers groups can work together efficiently to manage projects and processes. Users access and update the same schedule so they have better visibility of future resource requirements and can ensure delivery times are met.

ABB has also integrated the EPM solution with its enterprise resource planning system for financial and logistical data, as well as with its business intelligence and reporting solution. Now, ABB employees are more aware of the significance of planning, and the EPM solution has strengthened their trust in the information provided in the system’s reports and views.

Langanger says: “Using the Microsoft EPM solution, we can plan projects using a system everyone is familiar with. Planning support has also provided us with a better way of satisfying resource requirements in every area, for both the short and long term. This also means our delivery schedules are more reliable, and we can provide a better service.”

Microsoft EPM solutions offer numerous other benefits to businesses that require

advanced project management functionality. They help users to:

- **Manage projects as a collective portfolio for better decision making**  
The solution manages a company’s project portfolio more effectively by continually identifying, prioritising, and investing in projects that align with its corporate strategy.
- **Optimise resources for sustained competence**  
The solution also maximises productivity by assigning the right people to the right project teams.
- **Streamline project management performance for competitive advantage**  
Microsoft EPM tools help organisations meet project deadlines, budgets, and stakeholder expectations.
- **Strengthen collaboration across the enterprise for improved productivity**  
Team members can share knowledge, collaborate on tasks and deliverables, and respond quickly to change.
- **Drive business value**  
Microsoft EPM solutions help people work together to improve processes, increase efficiency, and facilitate knowledge sharing, driving a sustainable return on investment.