

SAP ERP 6.0 Roadmap for Public Services Customers

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For SAP Customers & Partners

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SAP ERP 6.0 ROADMAP FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

The SAP ERP 6.0 application release strategy announced in 2006 provides customers with predictability in planning upgrades from SAP R/3. As a customer in SAP Public Services industries (Public Sector, Defense, Healthcare and Higher Education & Research) you were given the choice of upgrading to the SAP ERP 6.0 application (SAP ERP) or to an industry-specific “edition” based on the SAP ERP 6.0 application. The SAP ERP Public Services Edition (SAP ERP PSE) was a collection of enhancements for Public Services based on the SAP ERP application.

The enhancements slated for SAP ERP PSE are now planned to be delivered through Enhancement Packages to SAP ERP 6.0. The following Key Questions provide information to help you determine if and how this affects your implementation plans.

Please note: “SAP ERP 6.0” is the new naming convention for what was previously known as “mySAP ERP 2005”. For more information on the SAP ERP 6.0 application, please visit www.sap.com/erp.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Q: What is the status of the SAP ERP 6.0 Public Services Edition?

A: There is a change in the delivery method, whereby Public Services-specific functionality planned to be delivered in Q4 2007 through SAP ERP PSE are now planned to be delivered via SAP enhancement package for SAP ERP 6.0.

The majority of the Public Services functionality is planned for delivery in Q4 2007 as part of SAP Enhancement Package 3, with the remaining features planned to be delivered in Q4 2008 as part of SAP Enhancement Package 4.

2. Q: What is the advantage of this approach?

A: There are several advantages to this approach:

- Public Services customers will now be on the same ERP baseline as other industries;
- You can choose which SAP Enhancement Package functionality to activate – so you only activate what you need, which means...
- You do not need to re-test all business processes – only those processes that are related to functionality activated in the SAP Enhancement Package with the Switch Framework (a set of configuration switches);
- If you've upgraded to SAP ERP 6.0 already, you do not have to upgrade again to take advantage of the planned SAP ERP 6.0 PSE functionality;
- If you were planning to upgrade to SAP ERP 6.0 PSE, you will not have your schedules disrupted, and in some cases will have less implementation work and testing to do than if a separate SAP ERP 6.0 PSE release were issued;
- If you're using other Industry Solutions, you don't have to wait until 2010 to take advantage of SAP ERP 6.0 PSE functionality that is relevant to your business (e.g., Aerospace and Defense, Oil and Gas, Telco, Utilities, etc.); and
- New functionality is planned to be delivered by additional Enhancement Packages twice a year, meaning reduced time-to-market for new functionality.
- With this move, all SAP for Public Services customers will have immediate access to all innovations without any delay.

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3. Q: Why did SAP pursue this change in approach?

A: SAP always seeks to provide new releases to customers on time and with a minimum of disruption to their implementation and upgrade schedules and plans. This is why future development information is released as early as possible to customers - but with a caveat that dates and functionality is subject to change.

The original delivery approach was chosen based on the desire to provide functionality required by Public Services customers in a timely manner, while minimizing disruptions in the baseline ERP caused by adding a significant amount of new functionality that is Public Services-specific. With such a large amount of development planned for our industry, the original delivery method would achieve both of these objectives.

However, based on your feedback, SAP determined that being able to stay on the commercial version was extremely important to our Public Services customers – even if that meant waiting longer for the new functionality. SAP therefore re-evaluated the delivery strategy for PSE functionality, and determined that an Enhancement Package delivery method was possible and would not cause any stability issues.

The Enhancement Package delivery method allows customers in other industries to maintain the core platform of ERP 6.0 without disruption, but now allows Public Services customers to take advantage of the PSE enhancements that have always been planned to be delivered, by down-porting planned functionality where possible. As explained in question 2, you now will have access to the majority of planned PSE functionality on time, but with more flexibility and greater implementation choices. This is a win-win for customers and SAP.

4. Q: Where do I find more information?

A: The document “Roadmap for PS Enhancement Areas in SAP ERP 6.0” contains a detailed listing of planned functionality for both Enhancement Package 3 and Enhancement Package 4. Please refer to this document for additional information on the features planned for release in each Enhancement Package. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact your SAP Account Executive or Customer Engagement Manager. Additionally, the service marketplace <http://service.sap.com/erp> provides more valuable information and details on SAP enhancement packages.