Seamless Enterprise Asset Management Data Integration

INTRODUCTION
Integration of plant asset management data with business financial information now has a standards-based, out-of-the-box solution.

Developed through a collaboration between Invensys and Microsoft®, this offering provides seamless integration between Avantis.PRO® Enterprise Asset Management software and Microsoft Dynamics® AX business software. It’s a speedily implemented and low risk solution that supports full, open communication across the enterprise.

TWO WORLD-CLASS SYSTEMS WORKING AS ONE
The Avantis.PRO solution is among the industry’s most comprehensive offerings for Enterprise Asset Management (EAM). Microsoft Dynamics AX is a leading business management and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution. Together, they provide a total productivity solution for mid-sized and large organizations that is unmatched by other ERP offerings. Many of these offerings lack critical focus on specialized business areas, areas not addressed by these solutions but integral to good planning and operations optimization.

Integrating two such powerful applications efficiently and cost-effectively can be daunting. The Avantis.PRO/Dynamics AX solution meets the challenge. Its standard, adaptable, reusable architecture represents a proven winner for both IT and business operations managers.
DISTINCT ADVANTAGES

Leverage data. Customers can optimize their asset availability and utilization by employing information from critical business systems — including those on the plant floor. The integrated system also improves financial and operating controls, while facilitating better interdepartmental coordination and enterprise planning.


Faster, easier connectivity. Unlike competitive integration schemes, the Avantis.PRO/Microsoft Dynamics AX approach provides rapid implementation of predefined connections. This standards-based integration solution uses the latest in Microsoft integration concepts and frameworks.

Low cost. Users require a smaller initial investment for this out-of-the-box solution. Expensive implementation time is reduced via prebuilt integration points and end-to-end connectivity for Microsoft Dynamics AX. Also, vendor support and upgrades mean lower ongoing costs for the life of the integrated system.

Proven reliability. It’s a tested solution from a trusted source. Close collaboration between Microsoft and Invensys provides a significant comfort factor.

Low risk. Invensys resources are available to answer questions and tailor the integration business flows; they are ready to help deploy this solution anywhere in the world. For the long term, Invensys is dedicated to providing timely upgrades and new release support.
EFFICIENT INTEGRATION TOOLS

This advanced approach builds integration between Avantis.PRO® and Microsoft Dynamics AX utilizing appropriately advanced tools. These include the Avantis.PRO Integration Toolkit, and Microsoft Dynamics AX 2009 Business Connectors.

WIDE RANGE OF SCENARIOS

The strength of this integration solution rests in how well it handles actual business scenarios across a wide variety of customer environments. The integrated system's high performance level relies on directing appropriate activities for each scenario, then communicating results seamlessly between them. For many organizations, inventory, procurement and maintenance can be performed entirely in Avantis.PRO. Financials are handled wholly by Microsoft Dynamics AX. Other organizations handle procurement in Microsoft Dynamics AX, and the integration flows reflect those business processes.

Common scenarios in typical business processes are ready to function right out of the box. If further customization is needed, changes can be made swiftly and efficiently.

Chart of Accounts Synchronization. Chart of Accounts information is typically entered and maintained in Microsoft Dynamics AX. Base integration enables the electronic loading of this data, in the form of GL Accounts and GL Named Segments, into Avantis. Account information can be added, changed and suspended in Avantis via the integration solution.

Vendor Master Synchronization. Vendors are added and maintained in Microsoft Dynamics AX. Base integration creates vendors in Avantis according to the Vendor record in Microsoft Dynamics AX. Vendors and vendor contacts can be electronically added, changed and suspended via the integration solution.

Employee Information. Employee records are created in Microsoft Dynamics AX. This information can then be electronically added, changed or suspended by way of the integration solution.

General Ledger Integration. Journal entry transactions (issues, adjustments, cycle counts etc.) are generated in Avantis, with account editing taking place at the time of transaction entry. This reduces errors and ensures that acceptable journal entries are passed to Microsoft Dynamics AX.

Accounts Payable. Base integration provides that Purchase Orders, receipts and invoices are input into Avantis. This enables Avantis to accomplish a three-way match and then pass those matched invoices to Microsoft Dynamics AX for payment. The integrated system’s electronic three-way matching saves time and improves accuracy.
Check Information. Microsoft Dynamics AX returns payment information to Avantis. This includes check number and check date, so that the completed information cycle can be viewed via Avantis for total asset management purposes.

Time Cards. In the base integration, General Ledger transactions related to time card activity are extracted from Avantis and sent to Microsoft Dynamics AX.

Requisitions. Requisitions are created in Avantis and sent to Microsoft Dynamics AX. They can be extracted from Avantis as “approved” or “unapproved,” depending on where the user wishes the Approval process to reside.

Purchase Orders. Purchase Orders are created in Microsoft Dynamics AX as standard Purchase Orders or as Releases for blanket orders. Both types of transactions are passed back to Avantis as Purchase Orders.

Receiving. The Receiving function is typically completed in Avantis. PO Receipts are sent to Microsoft Dynamics AX.

Invoicing. Invoices are created in Microsoft Dynamics AX, then passed to Avantis and posted for Inventory and Maintenance costing. Accurate costing information is critical to the advanced decision-making processes in Avantis.

For more information on the Avantis.PRO/Microsoft Dynamics AX solution, please contact your local Invensys sales representative.