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4 Steps to Ensure Your BI Strategy Is Actually Strategic

Putting together a business intelligence (BI) strategy is an important milestone for companies that want to get the most out of their BI investments. But it's not easy – most organizations need guidance on how to draft a strategy that will successfully align and coordinate all BI activities across the enterprise. Based on our past project experience, we at Lodestone Management Consultants have developed a BI Initiatives approach that enables our clients to do just that.

Lodestone's 4-Step Approach

Lodestone's BI Initiatives approach is designed to help companies make sure their BI strategy meets the reporting and analysis needs of the whole enterprise – and that any BI tools they select will enhance their BI environment. The approach comprises four stages (see **Figure 1**).

Stage #1: Strategy Check

Our consultants can assist you with an important, yet often neglected, step: determining if your BI strategy supports your overall enterprise and reporting strategy. For example, if your corporate strategy focuses on cost leadership, your BI strategy should include detailed cost-of-goods figures.

Stage #2: Assess BI Processes, Culture, Roles, and Architecture

Next, we'll assess your current BI structure to determine what processes and roles are already in place. With this assessment, our consultants can determine the best places to implement industry benchmarks, best practices, and the latest available technical options.

Stage #3: Define Future Objectives for BI

Anticipating future requirements and objectives is key to a successful BI initiative. Our consultants will help you collect, coordinate, and align feedback from your stakeholders – including the business and IT sides of the enterprise – to develop a vision of the long-term goals for your BI initiative.

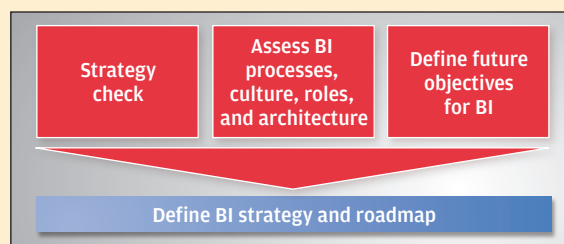
Stage #4: Define BI Strategy and Roadmap

Finally, our consultants will help you develop a comprehensive BI strategy and roadmap that outlines specific tasks and responsibilities. This includes a high-level design and architecture, as well as recommendations for which BI tools and components will best support your strategy. This roadmap will also define specific BI initiatives and a mid-term project schedule that includes milestones and resource assignments.

On top of this, we'll work with your company to develop specific KPIs to measure the success of your BI program so that you'll be able to easily demonstrate project progress and meet the expectations of your project sponsors.

Learn More

Lodestone Management Consultants is a global management consultancy committed to designing and delivering solutions that enable global companies to thrive in today's complex business environment. We are experts in designing and implementing large-scale SAP ERP and BI software architectures that leverage your existing investments and know-how. For more information, please visit www.lodestonemc.com or contact timo.schulte@lodestonemc.com. ■



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FIGURE 1 ◀ The four stages of Lodestone's BI Initiatives approach

An Exciting Time for BI

With the integration of new SAP BusinessObjects solutions into the existing SAP landscape, customers are benefiting from a sustainable and even more user-oriented BI architecture. Lodestone's four-step approach to defining a BI roadmap will help SAP customers optimally plan their BI landscape to get the most value from their SAP investments.