

S/4 boarding pass

Seven signs you're ready for SAP S/4HANA



Introduction

Moving to SAP S/4HANA is one of the most important technology decisions many organisations will make this decade. But transformation success isn't determined by the day the project starts. It's determined by how prepared you are beforehand.

“The organisations that realise the greatest value from S/4HANA typically arrive at implementation with clear objectives, executive alignment, strong governance and a realistic understanding of their current landscape”.



Adrian Jones,
Senior Solutions Architect, TCT.

Think of this guide as your boarding pass. The more boxes you can tick, the more likely your organisation is ready for a smooth departure towards a modern Digital Core.

Ready for take-off? Check these seven signs

Sign 1: you have a clear business case

S/4HANA should never be justified solely by an end-of-support deadline. Successful programmes are driven by business outcomes such as:

- Improved efficiency
- Better reporting and analytics
- Process standardisation
- Supply chain visibility
- Growth enablement
- Cost reduction

If leadership can clearly articulate why transformation is needed, you're already ahead of many organisations.

Boarding status: Ready if everyone agrees on the destination.

Sign 2: Executive sponsorship is in place

Every successful SAP programme has active executive sponsorship. Ask yourself:

- Is there a senior business sponsor?
- Is leadership aligned on priorities?
- Are decisions being made quickly?
- Is transformation viewed as a business initiative rather than an IT project?

Without strong sponsorship, programmes often struggle to maintain momentum when challenges arise.

Boarding status: Ready if leadership is actively engaged.

Sign 3: You understand your current SAP landscape

You don't need to know everything. But you do need visibility. Key questions include:

- How customised is ECC?
- Which integrations are critical?

What legacy systems depend on SAP?

Where are the biggest operational pain points?

Understanding your starting point makes it much easier to plan your route forward.

Boarding status: Ready if you have a realistic picture of your current environment.

Sign 4: Your data is under control

Poor quality data can significantly increase project complexity. Consider:

Are duplicate records managed?

Is master data governed?

Is ownership clearly defined?

Do you know what data you actually need to migrate?

The cleaner the data, the smoother the journey.

Boarding status: Ready if your data strategy is understood.

Sign 5: your processes are ready for improvement

Many organisations fall into the trap of simply recreating today's processes in a new system. S/4HANA creates an opportunity to simplify. Ask:

Which processes create the most frustration?

Where are manual workarounds common?

What can be standardised?

What could be automated?

The more willing the business is to challenge traditional ways of working, the more value S/4HANA can deliver.

Boarding status: Ready if transformation is about improvement, not replication.

Sign 6: key people are available

Technology projects need business involvement. Successful programmes have access to:

Process owners

Subject matter experts

Data leads

Change champions

Decision makers

If your key stakeholders can actively support the programme, you're in a much stronger position for success.

Boarding status: Ready if the right people can commit time to the journey.

Sign 7: you have a roadmap

You don't need every detail. But you should understand:

Your transformation approach

Key milestones

Major risks

Expected benefits

High-level timelines

A roadmap creates confidence and helps secure organisational support.

Boarding status: Ready if you know what comes next.

Your S/4 boarding pass scorecard

6-7 checks complete

Ready for boarding

Your organisation appears well positioned to begin planning or mobilising an SAP S/4HANA programme.

4-5 checks complete

Almost Ready

Some preparation may be required before launching a transformation. Focus on closing gaps in governance, readiness or planning.

0-3 checks complete

Not yet cleared for take-off

Consider conducting a Phase Zero assessment or ECC MOT Test to strengthen the foundations before committing to a major programme.

What if you're not ready?

The good news is that readiness can be built. Most organisations need support in one or more of these areas:

Business case development

Executive alignment

Data readiness

Process assessment

Architecture planning

Transformation roadmap creation

Addressing these areas early can dramatically improve programme outcomes and reduce risk.

How TCT helps

TCT helps organisations assess, prepare and accelerate their journey to SAP S/4HANA. Through our Digital Core advisory services, ECC MOT Test and Phase Zero engagements, we help organisations:

Understand readiness

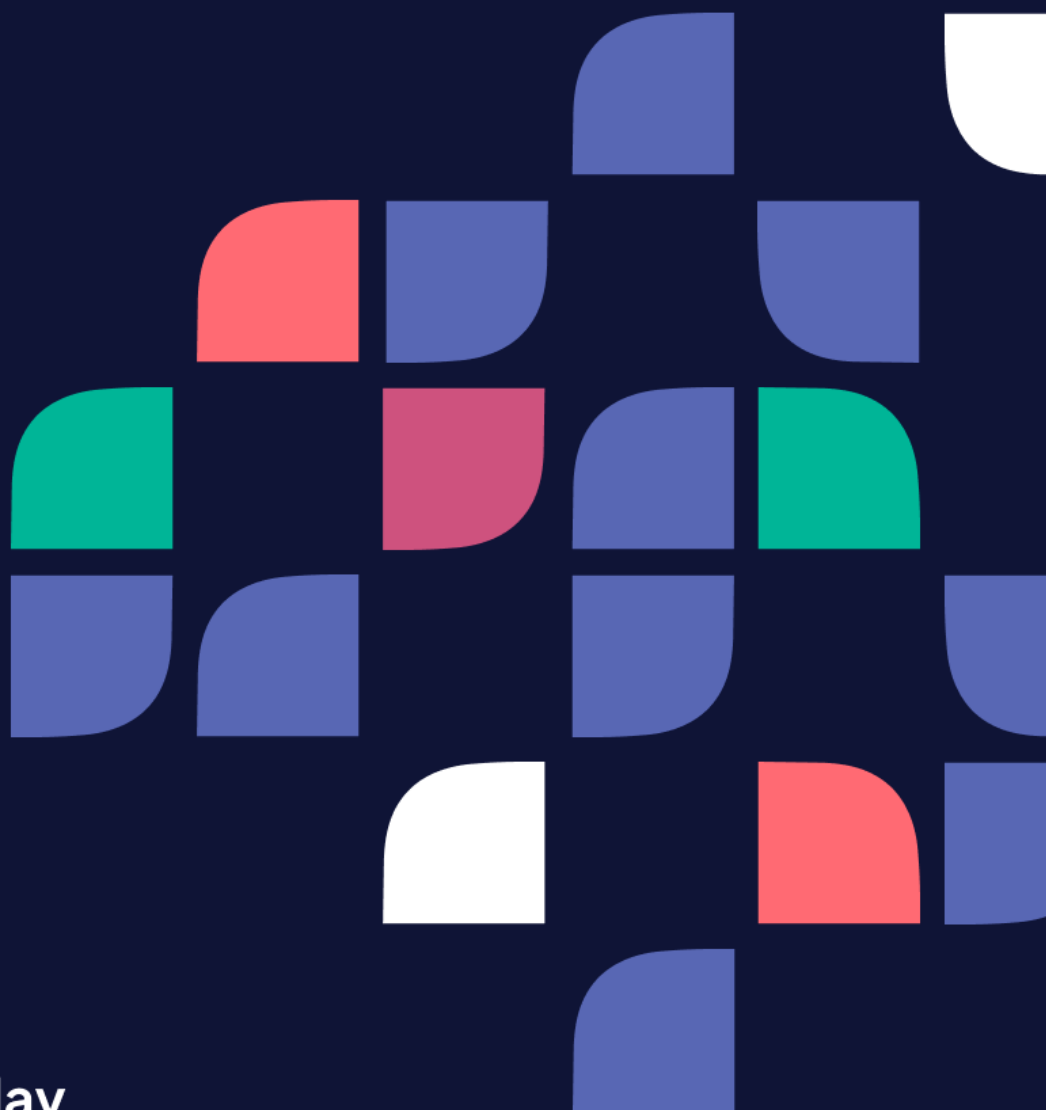
Identify risks

Build stakeholder alignment

Create practical roadmaps

Define transformation strategies

Launch successful programmes



Get in touch today
theconfigteam.com