

How to Choose the Best ERP System for Your Business

In today's competitive marketplace, companies in need of an ERP system must carefully navigate the congested roadway of software and vendor options available. Once implemented, however, the right system can enhance productivity, encourage growth and increase ROI. But first, you must undertake the daunting task of choosing the best ERP system for your business. That can be both complicated and costly. The following guidelines will help clarify the selection process and should be considered when evaluating your options.

Does the system adapt to your business goals?

The most effective ERP systems are not built upon the theory that "one size fits all." Every business is different; therefore each ERP system must be tailored to meet individual goals and objectives. You should not have to change your business model to accommodate the software applications. Instead, the functionality of the system should mesh with the best practices you have already established and mold to meet your unique business needs.

that's right for your business will be capable of changing and adapting just as quickly as your company does.

That's why it's so important to invest in software that not only meets the needs of your company today, but also can also be scaled and modified to meet your needs over the next decade or more. The top ERP vendors should have both longevity and experience on their side, ensuring your ERP system will provide solutions today and in the years to come.

Is the system flexible enough to grow with your company?

Let's face it, your business is constantly changing and evolving. You have to be prepared when the market expands. You have to be ready to implement new operating procedures as they arise. And you need to be prepared to handle growth effectively and efficiently. The ERP system

Does the system allow for seamless integration across all of your applications?

The ERP system you choose should integrate seamlessly across all of your business applications, streamlining processes and information flow from finance, HR and manufacturing to sales and marketing, distribution and supply chain management. A fully integrative

system will earn its keep by improving productivity, increasing revenue and reducing costly downtime.

How quickly will the system be implemented?

The vendor you choose for your ERP system should guarantee a quick and efficient implementation of your software. The quicker it's up and running, the greater your user buy-in will be and the sooner you'll see your ROI. Just as important as the speed in which your system is implemented, however, is the vendor's proven methodology for setting your system in motion. That methodology should be evident from your very first meeting through the implementation process and well beyond to ensure the system is working as intended and your goals are being met.

Does the vendor have expertise in your industry?

A vendor's ability to lead you through the entire ERP system implementation and subsequent support requires much

more than a functional understanding of the software. The right vendor will also have extensive experience and expertise across the entire enterprise so they are able to achieve the best value and most comprehensive results for you.

Can the vendor deliver solid solutions with proven results?

Look for a vendor who has earned longevity in the field, a market leader. Because they've withstood the test of time and industry trials, they are equipped with a keener understanding of the business challenges you face. Select a vendor who has proven they can create solutions relevant to your business. And make sure they have a solid reputation for continually delivering those solutions on time and within budget.

Will support continue through a long-term partnership with the vendor?

The right vendor should be just as committed to your success with the ERP system in the years to come as they are

during the initial sales process. Ongoing training, technical support and complete accessibility are a few of the resources that should go hand in hand with a mutually beneficial ERP partnership.

Choosing the right ERP vendor and system for your business doesn't have to be as complicated as you might have thought. Use these guidelines as a map to help navigate you through the process and you'll have a clearer idea of who will provide the most comprehensive solutions, greatest ROI and long-term service and support to fulfill all of your expectations.

For more information, please contact us at 877-684-7700 or inforequest@envistacorp.com.