

# **Operational Diagnostic & Consolidation Roadmap**

### **Prepared For:**

A Case Study in B2B Distribution & Project Management

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This document presents an anonymized summary of a real-world diagnostic performed for a mid-sized company in the architectural finishing sector. It is intended to demonstrate our process and the value of a unified internal system.

#### **Context:**

The subject company manages a complex catalog of products from multiple international suppliers. Its core business operations—from quoting to project execution—relied heavily on a disconnected set of tools, primarily spreadsheets, email, and standalone accounting software.

## **Key Challenges Identified:**

Data Fragmentation: Price lists were stored in dozens of non-standardized Excel files, leading to frequent pricing errors and inefficient product searches.

Operational Inefficiency: The process of creating, validating, and approving a single sales quote involved numerous manual steps and email exchanges, consuming an estimated 8-10 hours of work per salesperson per week.

Lack of Visibility: Management lacked a real-time overview of sales pipelines, project statuses, and true profitability per quote without manual data compilation.

High Operational Risk: The reliance on manual processes created significant risks of errors in quantities, incorrect discount application, and delays in client communication.

### **Recommended Solution:**

The implementation of a custom-built, unified operational platform to act as a central nervous system for the business, integrating product management, quoting, workflow automation, and project management.

# **Projected Benefits:**

Reduce quoting and approval time by over 90%.

Centralize 100% of product, client, and project data into a single source of truth.

Provide real-time managerial visibility into team performance and project profitability.

Eliminate critical pricing and quantity errors through standardization and automated approval flows.

Our diagnostic mapped the company's existing workflow for a typical sales quote, revealing significant bottlenecks and points of friction.

# **Typical Workflow Steps:**

Salesperson: Manually searches through multiple supplier Excel files to find products and pricing.

Salesperson: Creates a preliminary quote in a local Word or Excel document.

Email: Sends the draft to the Technical department for quantity and specification validation.

Technical Team: Makes adjustments and sends an updated file back via email.

Salesperson: Manually incorporates technical changes and calculates final discounts.

Email/Phone Call: Seeks approval from a Manager or Accounting for discounts exceeding a certain threshold.

Finalization: Once all approvals are gathered, the final document is created and sent to the client.

### **Identified Friction Points:**

Wasted Time: Manual searches and data entry are slow and error-prone.

Version Control Issues: Email-based collaboration leads to confusion with multiple file versions.

Lack of Audit Trail: No centralized history of changes, approvals, or communications exists.

We designed a centralized software solution to replace the fragmented workflow with a streamlined, intelligent, and fully integrated process.

# **Key Platform Modules:**

#### 1. Centralized Product Database:

An intelligent import tool that reads any Excel format and standardizes product data.

Automatic generation of unique internal product codes for consistent tracking.

Instant search functionality across the entire product catalog.

#### 2. Integrated Quoting & CRM Module:

Rapid quote generation using pre-defined, customizable templates.

Automated discount controls with role-based override permissions for managers.

A complete view of clients, project sites, and contact history.

#### 3. Automated Approval Workflow Engine:

A generated quote automatically notifies the Technical team for validation within the platform.

Changes are tracked and highlighted, requiring a single click for acceptance by the salesperson.

Approval requests for special discounts are routed automatically to the correct decision-maker.

### 4. Financial & Project Management Integration:

Accepted quotes are converted into detailed Project Estimates with a single click.

API integration with existing accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks, Xero, SmartBill) to automate invoicing based on payment schedules (e.g., 50% advance).

We proposed a phased implementation to deliver value quickly and minimize business disruption.

# Phase 1: Quoting & Product Core (Est. Duration: 4-6 weeks)

Activities: Import all product price lists, configure the quoting module, and set up user roles and permissions.

Outcome: The sales team can generate all new quotes through the new, efficient system.

Example Investment: A one-time fee, typically starting from €3,800.

# Phase 2: Project Management & Financial Integration (Est. Duration: 4 weeks)

Activities: Connect the platform to accounting software, automate the creation of estimates and contracts, and build the project tracking module.

Outcome: A seamless operational flow from the initial quote to final invoicing.

Example Investment: A one-time fee, typically starting from €3,800.

## **Ongoing Hosting, Maintenance & Support:**

Includes secure cloud hosting (AWS), daily backups, security monitoring, and user support.

Model: A predictable monthly retainer based on the number of users and data volume.

The system outlined in this diagnostic was not just a proposal — it was successfully implemented, transforming the client's operations from a state of organized chaos into a model of digital efficiency.

The project validated our core belief: a custom-built internal system, when designed correctly, provides an unparalleled competitive advantage that off-the-shelf SaaS products cannot match.

## **Experience the Solution for Yourself**

We have created a public-facing, interactive demonstration version of this platform. Here, you can explore the complete workflow and experience the system from the perspective of various roles—from a Salesperson creating a quote to a Manager setting sales targets.

See how a unified system can transform your business.

Access the live demo at: https://ambien.eu

Ready to start a conversation about your own business processes?

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