The Core Banking Transformation Specialist
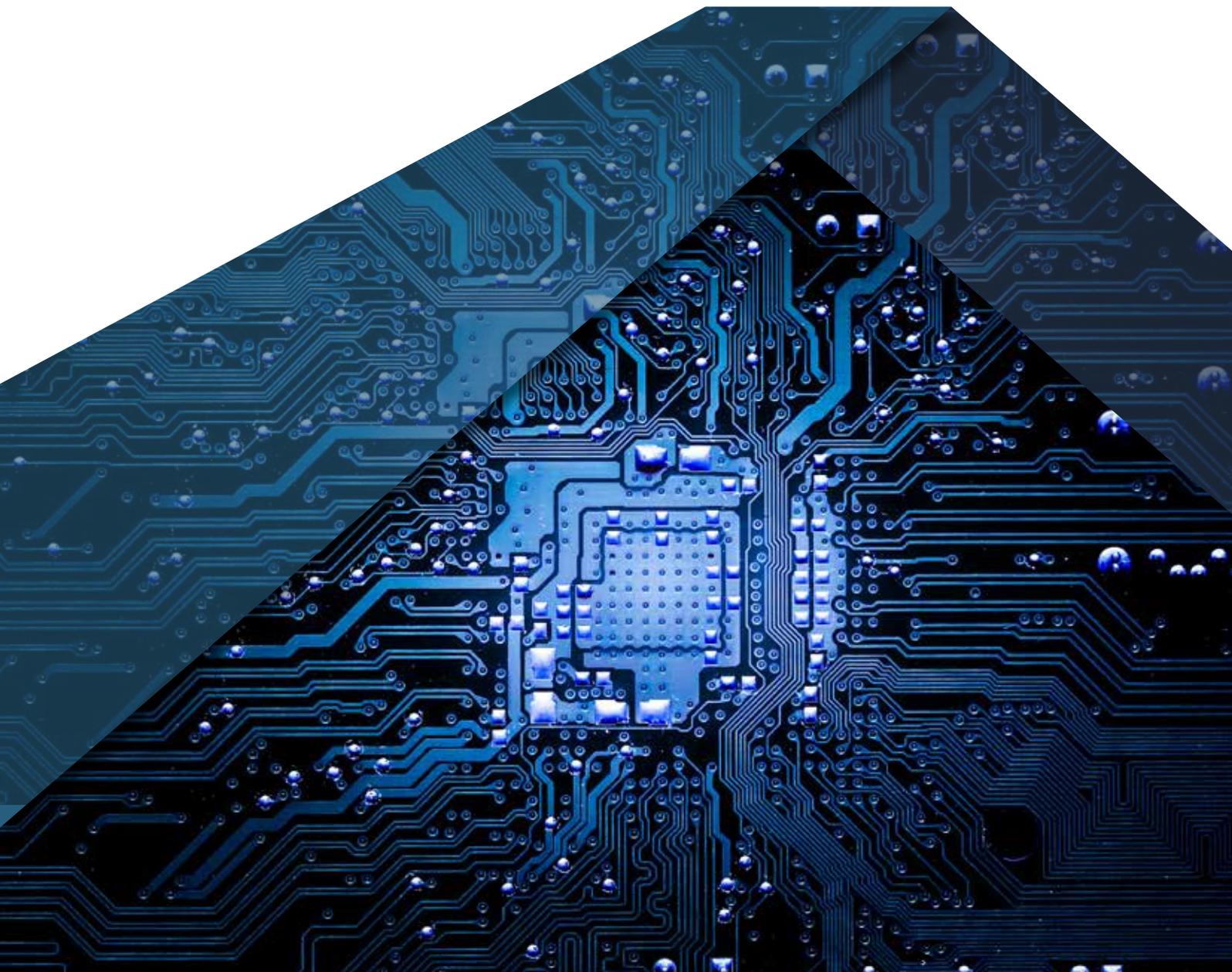
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Introduction

The IT advantage
Staying ahead of the competition requires a nimble, flexible IT environment that can easily adapt to changing business needs. Delivering such a system is often seen as a difficult, complex, expensive and time-consuming undertaking that can last many years. But working with an experienced partner with proven methodologies reduces the complexities, cuts risk and speeds up delivery.

Never has it been so important for banks to have the right IT systems. Mounting regulatory pressures, strong competition from both established and new players, increased demands from customers and diminished profitability – all demand IT excellence. But that's not all. Today, speed is critical. The pressure is on to comply swiftly and efficiently with new regulations, introduce new products fast and enter new markets efficiently to maximise opportunity and minimise risk.

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Partners that deliver

Orbium is highly experienced in the Avaloq Banking Suite (ABS), an integrated IT platform that embraces the modern banking practices demanded by today's customers and regulators. The first and largest Avaloq Premium Implementation Partner, we have delivered the majority of Avaloq's large-scale implementation projects around the world. To date, we have completed more than 40 ABS projects on time and within budget.

Many leading banks rely on ABS to run their core banking transactions and host core banking data. They choose it for its adaptability, scalability, reliability, efficiency, integrity and security. Its comprehensive functionality covers banks, wealth managers and asset manager's requirements and helps to position them for the future.

Orbium consultants work on projects at the cutting-edge of ABS functionality and can rapidly translate industry-led changes into effective solutions for our clients and the greater Avaloq community.

Over the past decade, Orbium has:

- Led multiple, major ABS implementations globally
- Led major release change projects
- Played key roles in projects where the client maintained the lead and sought specialists for defined activities
- Carried out assessment and scoping exercises for ABS prospects and clients
- Helped clients with their ongoing application support needs
- Conducted post-implementation and re-engineering of business processes linked to ABS transformation projects.

Orbium has drawn on its vast experience of working with ABS to perfect fit-for-purpose services with a strong focus on quality delivery. These include:

IMPLEMENTATION	PROCESS & PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT	CHANGE MANAGEMENT	PRODUCT COACHING	PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION

PROCESS & PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

PRODUCT COACHING

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Implementation

We take a practical, pragmatic approach to ABS implementations. We plan for success and know the pitfalls to avoid. The result: fast, efficient implementations with risks controlled and mitigated.

Our services for full ABS implementations cover the following:

- Functional and technical gap analysis between the current and target solutions
- Definition of use cases
- Documentation of functional and technical specifications
- Functional and technical architecture design
- Development of bespoke interfaces with peripheral third-party systems
- Designing and setting system parameters and customisation
- Release management
- Documentation of data mapping and conversion rules
- Development of data migration scripts
- Development of training concepts
- Development of testing concepts
- Coaching and training of client project teams
- Delivery of end-user business training
- Delivery of system testing
- Development of cut-over strategies and plans
- Project coaching
- Project management.

Our range of proprietary tools to accelerate ABS implementations makes projects easier, faster and more secure. These tools cover:

- Setting parameters for end-of-period batches
- Managing data migration
- Automating source-code auditing
- Setting parameters for Avaloq workflows
- Managing access rights
- Automating testing and more

IMPLEMENTATION
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Process & Product Improvement

The banking environment isn't static and neither are Avaloq implementations. One of the most significant strengths of ABS is its ability to evolve and cope with change by supporting:

- New business activities
- New business units, branches and subsidiaries
- New products or services
- Improved business processes
- Mergers, acquisitions and subsequent integration
- Regulatory and compliance changes
- Advanced compliance mandates
- Strengthened risk monitoring
- Straight through process (STP) integration
- Adherence to international reporting requirements
- Infrastructure consolidation
- Efficiency initiatives
- Changing group reporting requirements
- Interfacing new satellite systems.

Each change has knock-on effects for existing ABS set-ups. But consequential change needn't be lengthy or complicated. Orbium is ideally placed to support clients through the planning and implementation stages, cutting project time and maximising efficiency. We specialise in covering both the business and technical impacts of integrating these changes, freeing our clients to concentrate on their businesses.

Once an ABS implementation is complete and stable, it makes sense to take full advantage of its powerful capabilities. To do this effectively demands a thorough review of business processes to find areas for improvement. Our consultants draw on their business and Avaloq experience to help clients undertake this review while our unique combination of Avaloq practical skills and business analysis brings quantifiable productivity gains as a result.

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Change Management

Implementing the ABS is always going to bring major transformational change that will affect the whole organisation. Change on such a scale needs to be carefully managed as its effects can go way beyond the purely technical.

Orbium has drawn on years of experience to develop a strong change-management framework to help support ABS implementations. As a result, our adaptable approach helps rein in the unwelcome project creep that can accompany the implementation of such a powerful, flexible application.

Our framework covers every aspect of change management including:

Identification of all stakeholders and the definition of their precise involvement and needs
Preparation and support of all parties affected before, during and after implementation with training, targeted information sessions, incentive mechanisms and more
Management of information to make sure everyone knows what they need to know without suffering overload.

A well-applied change-management process is an underrated aspect of major transformation projects. It is critical to plan change-management carefully, including for the inevitable resistance to change.

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Project Coaching

We can support clients that opt to run an ABS project independently by leveraging our experience of similar projects.

We offer a range of ABS workshops as well as full, shadow project management to support in-house skills and strengthen capacity. Working behind the scenes, we can share our experience, methodology and knowledge while the client takes care of communications and decision-making.

We offer the following ABS project coaching services:

- Project management workshops
- Project approach review
- Project plan review
- Project organisation review
- Project staffing review
- Risk assessment
- Quality assurance
- Full shadow project management

Project coaching allows clients to benefit from our experience on ABS implementations while they manage their own projects.

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Project Management

Our project-management methodology is specifically designed for ABS and has been successfully applied to more than 40 projects. Based around a set of tools, methodologies and templates, it optimises control and minimises risk.

Built-in flexibility comes from its modular nature, allowing it to be adapted to suit every ABS project, big or small. It can be applied to first implementations, release changes, and third-party projects, always taking account of the resource split. It allows us to:

- Plan in detail all implementation activities
- Control and monitor project progress
- Define the various entry and exit criteria at each stage of the project
- Assess and monitor risks
- Control changes
- Assess quality
- Communicate project status to stakeholders.

Pre-configured, it minimises set-up time so that the project can get started as soon as possible. Our methodology is also open and compatible with standard project management methodologies.

ABS Premium Implementation Partner

With a success rate of 100 per cent, our approach to ABS implementations not only works, it has also earned us Premium Implementation Partner status. We facilitate fast and efficient implementations while controlling and mitigating risk. This ensures banks see marked improvements in their overall operations and profitability upon delivery.

A Proven Methodology

Projects that lack a clear roadmap or are poorly planned quickly become difficult to manage. This results in delays and client dissatisfaction. Orbium's effective and proven methodology for ABS implementation projects ensures clarity throughout the process and is continually updated to take into account both changing industry practices and client needs. The key benefits for our clients are:

- Efficient project implementation thanks to an integrated, well-defined project plan
- A shared, consistent, transparent approach with clearly-defined deliverables
- Business process and technology activities integrated into one simple view
- Documented good practice and learning incorporated from previous projects.

Our customised and proven approach makes the most of Avaloq's features. The main benefits are:

- Greater control of critical functionality and milestones
- Lower risk
- Faster ramp-up on the project using the standard baseline to present and validate existing functionality with users.

Moving Forward: We Can Help You

If your bank's legacy core system is not fulfilling the needs of your business, talk to us. Together, we can help you fulfil your vision of an efficient and business friendly IT environment.

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