

# SYSPRO 8 helps Empire Nuts manage strong growth

CASE STUDY

## At a Glance

### ORGANIZATION

Company name



### REGION

Africa

### KEY CHALLENGE

Bring multiple ad hoc processes into one fully-integrated system.

### KEY BENEFIT

Enhanced productivity, a common repository and end-to-end traceability

### INDUSTRY

Food & Beverage

### END USER MARKET

Consumer

### SOLUTION

SYSPRO 8

## Customer Profile

Since its inception in 2005, the Empire Nuts group of companies has grown to become one of the largest and most diverse edible nut and dried fruit businesses in South Africa. It is headquartered in Midrand, Gauteng, with a branch in Cape Town.

## The Business Challenge

The exceptional growth experienced by Empire Nuts has brought with it substantial challenges. As a long-term SYSPRO customer, Empire Nuts identified a need to optimize the capabilities of its SYSPRO solution and that an upgrade would smooth its digital transformation journey to the cloud. The company also needed to bring multiple ad hoc processes into one fully-integrated solution.

## The Solution

Empire Nuts upgraded from SYSPRO 7 to SYSPRO 8 in October 2021, taking the opportunity to integrate all its processes, from warehouse production to creating bills of material and inventory, into this single solution.

## The Outcome

SYSPRO 8 has become integral to Empire Nuts' ability to managing inventory and stock production, trace items during food safety audits, maintain the integrity of its data and security access, and enhance productivity.

“

*SYSPRO's Work in Progress capability has improved our product and job traceability and certainly has the potential to allow us to pinpoint areas in our supply chain that are non-value-adding.*

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– Amy Maree, Financial Controller, Empire Nuts.

## Managing strong growth

Empire Nuts began exporting products in 2008, and has been sourcing products from several other countries since 2010. This, combined with the development of the South African nut industry, has contributed to strong growth. In the past couple of years alone, its production facility and warehouse space have both doubled in size.

“Empire Nuts is still a family business, but we are growing at a phenomenal rate,” says Amy Maree, Financial Controller of Empire Nuts. “We are grateful for the success, particularly in these harsh economic times, but it comes with challenges. This is why we have several projects on the go simultaneously, and the fully-integrated nature of SYSPRO is key to bringing everything together and making it work.

“For example, SYSPRO’s Work in Progress (WIP) capability has improved our product and job traceability and certainly has the potential to allow us to pinpoint areas in our supply chain that are non-value-adding.”

With multiple projects lined up for development, Empire Nuts embarked on a program of general business process re-engineering which in turn sparked a digital transformation journey. A major milestone on this journey was one of the biggest projects of 2021, the implementation of a scanning solution in its warehouses.

## Reaping the rewards of full integration

In addition to having several projects running in parallel, Empire Nuts had a high number of ad hoc processes which needed to be integrated into one system: SYSPRO.

Today, Empire Nuts has 1200 registered debtor accounts on SYSPRO and uses the solution across its business from production in the warehouse to the creation of Bills of Material, all its inventory processes and the end-to-end finance function.

“Having a common repository is critical, so a fully-integrated ERP system is a huge plus for us,” Maree says.



## Optimizing the power of SYSPRO 8

Upgrading to SYSPRO 8 provides Empire Nuts with SYSPRO Web Interface (Avanti), which allows access to the solution through a web browser on any device or platform, from anywhere, at any time. As a result, the company will be using SYSPRO more widely in its retail space. This capability also supports Empire Nut’s migration to the cloud, as it gives users the choice and flexibility to access SYSPRO quickly and easily through a web browser.

A further benefit of the upgrade is that SYSPRO 8 now ties in strongly with Empire Nuts’ Food Safety Division. This enables the company to comprehensively trace items during a food safety audit.

“We are now at the point where once we have an invoice with all the client details, client accounts and batch numbers, we are able to trace the product from when it was receipted for the first time through our warehouse right through to the final customer,” Maree says. “This has helped immensely in ensuring our audits are accurate.”

With SYSPRO 8, security in terms of employees’ access to the system has improved, making this aspect of the business far easier to manage. Going forward, drilling down into all roles and access points will be easier. This has enhanced Empire Nuts’ ability to maintain the integrity of its data and security access, thereby facilitating compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).

## Partnering for success

Empire Nuts partners with Solutus Consulting, a SYSPRO Premium Solutions Partner, to customize its SYSPRO solution. Shaun Frodsham, Business Analyst with Solutus Consulting, says the company understands the need to maintain Empire’s fast growth.

“Solutus was able to fully exploit the traceability and control that SYSPRO offers in the Work in Progress module and fully utilize SYSPRO Business Objects to develop custom solutions that answer Empire Nuts’ unique needs,” Frodsham says.

“The journey does not end here. As Empire continues to grow, we maintain a level of continuous improvement to deliver an ERP solution that matches Empire Nuts’ vision for the manufacturing and retail sector.”

Looking ahead, Empire Nuts plans to integrate SYSPRO with its online store so that its inventory levels and sales orders are linked to the system.

“This will be a big step as it means the sales order is automatically generated in SYSPRO when the customer places an order online,” Maree says.



## About Solutus Consulting

Although a relatively young company, Solutus is no stranger to the SYSPRO community, with an established experience among its frontline members. Solutus specializes in the support and implementation of SYSPRO ERP systems and tools include SYSPRO experienced development team, Solution Architects, Business Analysts, Technical Specialists, Project managers as well as dedicated Helpdesk with a highly competitive response time. They can tailor your system as well as integrate third party software into SYSPRO, bringing corporations closer to their business and customers by narrating their ERP experience.

## About SYSPRO

SYSPRO is a leading, global Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software provider, specializing in key manufacturing and distribution industries. Our Industry-built solutions and services are designed to make things possible.

SYSPRO's ERP solution empowers customers to take the next step – whether it is expanding into new territories, adding new product lines, transforming business processes, or driving innovation. Through our ERP software, customers gain access to solutions, processes, and tools to assist in the management of data for key business insights and informed decision making. The solution is scalable and can be deployed in the cloud, on-premise, or both, and accessed via the web on any device to provide customers with choice and flexibility.

As a trusted advisor, SYSPRO remains focused on the success of partners and customers. With a strong commitment to channel partner growth, SYSPRO customers are backed by a team of global experts that drive maximum value out of IT systems and business solutions. We are committed to addressing the unique needs of our customers, enabling them to easily adapt and remain resilient. Our evolving solutions are aligned with industry trends and leverage emerging technologies that will enable partners and customers to secure a digital future and to gain a competitive advantage.

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Learn more about SYSPRO's solutions for the food and beverage industries  
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