

KDD099 - PPM Portfolio Items App Enhancement Approach

Status	Approved
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Issue

The current standard SAP PPM application provides a fragmented and inefficient user experience. Users are required to navigate across multiple applications and screens to create and approve a PPM item, resulting in complexity, reduced usability, and process inefficiencies.

Early in the program, it was agreed that an improved, streamlined user experience would be required to support effective PPM item creation and approval. This Key Design Decision (KDD) therefore aims to evaluate the available technical options to deliver a new UI. Following are the options evaluated as part of the KDD.

- Develop a custom application in-house – Design and build a tailored solution aligned to business and governance requirements.
- Purchase and implement a partner solution – Leverage an existing third-party product to provide enhanced PPM UI capabilities.
- Enhance the standard SAP UI using SAP Screen Personas – Simplify and optimize the current screens with required backend changes.

Recommendation

It is recommended to proceed with Option 3: Custom In-House Development based on the following factors:

- Stronger user acceptance
- Full alignment with the Syway development approach for complex builds
- Complete control over design to ensure business requirements are fully met
- Easy to Support in BAU compared to other options

While Option 2: SAP Screen Personas presents a slightly lower upfront implementation cost, the difference over a five-year horizon is minimal. This marginal saving would come at the expense of a compromised user experience and would not provide the guided, modern interface expected by the business. In addition, applying Screen Personas to a requirement of this complexity would not align with Syway development standards, which position Personas for simple screen enhancements rather than complex application solutions.

From a support and sustainability perspective, a custom-built Fiori application can be supported by the existing Fiori development team, ensuring consistency in skills, standards, and long-term maintainability. In contrast, Screen Personas requires specialized skills that are not widely used in other developments, introducing unnecessary complexity and long-term dependency on niche expertise.

Accordingly, Screen Personas is not recommended.

Background & Context

The "Portfolio Items" app is the primary transaction used to execute PPM processes in S/4HANA. However, the standard UI presents several significant shortcomings:

- It is based on legacy WebDynpro technology and is not aligned with modern Fiori design principles.
- Screens are convoluted, poorly structured, and not user-friendly.
- Creation of a PPM item requires multiple manual steps, including navigation between S/4HANA and SAC Planning.
- The standard UI does not guide users through the end-to-end process and provides no visibility on data completeness or required inputs.

Business expectations for the future-state user experience are influenced by the current WeGo/Accolade and Colmar tools, which provide a significantly more intuitive and streamlined interface. In addition, KDD096 – Replacement of Accolade assumes that an improved user interface will be delivered as part of the target solution.

SAP has confirmed that there are no planned UI improvements for Portfolio Items on their product roadmap. As a result, following alternative approaches must be evaluated.

Option 1: Partner Solution – SophisTex Add-On: SAP has suggested a certified partner solution from sophisTex that provides a more flexible and user-friendly interface. The following features are included:

- S/4HANA certified Add-on by SAP ICC
- Achieves Clean Core, no impact on S/4HANA EPPM upgradability
- Delivered with a default set of configuration to reduce implementation time
- Flexibility to further customize and enhance
- Stage Gate approval functionality is incorporated.

Option 2: SAP Screen Personas: SAP Screen Personas offers the capability to reformat and simplify existing WebDynpro screens. This approach would improve layout and usability but would not fundamentally redesign the process or have elaborate guided workflow capabilities.

Option 3: Custom In-House Development: An alternative approach would be to develop a custom application in-house. Combined with the SAP Consulting solution for Stage Gate approvals, this option could deliver equivalent functionality, including guided process steps, improved usability, and integrated approval management, fully tailored to business requirements.

Assumptions

It is assumed that:

- All options will require internal custom development for:
 - Integration with OpenText
 - Integration with SAC
 - Automation of follow-on actions on Stage Gate approval
- The sophisTex solution will be fully tested and relatively bug-free, while an in-house development will inherently require more effort in testing and resolution of bugs.
- A dedicated UI developer would be required for a fully custom UI build.
- There will be approximately 2000 users of PPM
- SAP PPM licenses will be required regardless of the UI

Constraints

N/A

Impacts

The decision on UI does impact up-stream or down-stream processes or data.

The main impacts of the decision are:

- Financial (both to the project and ongoing BAU costs)
- In-house development team capacity
- Time to deliver
- Testing effort

Financial Impact

The following section outlines the financial impact of each option evaluated as part of this KDD. The analysis reflects the total cost of ownership over a five-year period, including implementation costs, licensing (where applicable), enhancements, and ongoing support and maintenance.

Option 1: sophisTex Partner Solution

Approx. Cost (5 years)	Project Cost	Ongoing Cost	Total 5 years
=€ 450 *20 users *2 years during build & test	€18,000		
=€140k *1 year for go-live (2000 users)	€140,000		
=€140k *2 years post go-live (2000 users)		€ 280,000	
=40 days * €1500 for sophisTex consulting during build (OT integration, SAC integration, workflow, other enhancements)	€ 60,000		
=20 days * €1500 for sophisTex support during SIT/UAT/cutover	€ 30,000		
=15 days * €1000 for in-house design for complex WRICEF	€ 15,000		
=20 days * €1000 in-house build - custom PPP configuration	€ 20,000		
=30 days in-house build * €1000 for approval workflow solution	30,000		
	€ 313,000	€ 280,000	€ 593,000

Option 2: Screen Personas

Approx. Cost (5 years)	Project Cost	Ongoing Cost	Total 5 years
=20 days design for very complex WRICEF	€ 20,000		
=25 days build for custom fields and validations	€ 25,000		
=15 days * 1000 EUR for in-house UI build	€ 15,000		
=10 days* 1000 EUR for in-house OT integration/enhancement	€ 10,000		
=20 days SAP build for approval workflow solution	€ 40,000		
=30 days in-house build for approval workflow solution	€ 30,000		
=ongoing cost 10% of the build cost per year		€14,000	
	€ 140,000	€ 14,000	€ 220,000

Option 3: In-house Development

Approx. Cost (5 years)	Project Cost	Ongoing Cost	Total 5 years
=20 days design for very complex WRICEF	€ 20,000		
=80 days * 1000 EUR for in-house UI build	€ 80,000		
=20 days SAP build for approval workflow solution	€ 40,000		
=30 days in-house build for approval workflow solution	€ 30,000		
=ongoing cost 10% of the build cost per year		€ 15,000	
	€ 170,000	€ 15000	€ 245,000

Option 4: Do Nothing - Keep the existing Standard Webdynpro screen

Approx. Cost (5 years)	Project Cost	Ongoing Cost	Total 5 years
=20 days design for very complex WRICEF	€ 20,000		
=20 days* 1000 EUR for in-house OT integration/enhancement	€ 20,000		
=25 days design for custom fields and validations	€ 25,000		
=20 days SAP build for approval workflow solution	€ 40,000		
=30 days in-house build for approval workflow solution	€ 30,000		
=ongoing cost 10% of the build cost per year		€11,500	
	€ 135,000	€ 11,500	€ 192,500

Business Rules

N/A

Options considered

Option 1: sophisTex Partner Solution

The sophisTex PPP solution provides a customizable user interface for PPM Item creation and maintenance. It is offered as a subscription-based model, with costs scaled according to the number of users.

The solution delivers an enhanced, flexible UI and includes embedded Stage Gate approval functionality. However, additional custom development would be required to address the following requirements:

- Ability to navigate directly into SAC Planning for maintaining project financials
- Integration with OpenText workspace
- Automation of follow-on actions triggered by Stage Gate approval

The vendor has confirmed that these enhancements are feasible within the solution framework.

Refer to the linked solution pack for detailed functional and technical specifications.

Option 2: Screen Personas

SAP Screen Personas would be used to simplify and reformat the existing WebDynpro-based screens to improve usability.

This approach would deliver:

- Simplified screens for Item creation and changes
- Direct navigation to SAC Planning for project financial maintenance

However, further custom development would be required to enable:

- "Save as Draft" or "Copy from Existing Item" functionality
- Integration with OpenText workspace
- Integration with the SAP Consulting Solution for Stage Gate approvals (cost included in the estimate)
- Automation of follow-on actions after Stage Gate approval

While this option improves layout and usability, it remains dependent on the underlying WebDynpro framework and the custom development to support all the required functionalities.

Option 3: Custom In-house Development

Under this option, a new custom application would be developed to replace the standard Portfolio Items UI.

The application would be designed using modern Fiori principles and would provide a guided, end-to-end user experience aligned with business expectations and the replacement of Accolade (KDD096).

The solution would include:

- Fiori-based user interface aligned with SAP design standards
- Guided item creation process with validation and completeness checks
- Direct navigation to SAC Planning for maintaining project financials
- Integration with OpenText workspace
- Integration with the SAP Consulting Solution for Stage Gate approvals (cost included in the estimate)
- Automation of follow-on actions triggered by Stage Gate approval

This approach enables full alignment to business requirements and provides maximum flexibility for future enhancements.

Option 4: Standard Webdynpro

This option retains the standard WebDynpro application but introduces targeted enhancements.

The following capabilities would be implemented:

- Custom fields and validations within the existing WebDynpro framework
- Integration with OpenText workspace
- Integration with the SAP Consulting Solution for Stage Gate approvals (cost included in the estimate)
- Automation of follow-on actions triggered by Stage Gate approval

While this approach minimizes architectural change, it does not fundamentally modernize the user experience and continues to rely on legacy WebDynpro technology.

Evaluation

All four options were assessed against defined evaluation criteria, including functional fit, implementation cost and effort, UI flexibility, business acceptance, and alignment with the Syway development approach.

Evaluation Criteria	Option 1 - sophisTex Partner Solution	Option 2 - Screen Personas	Option 3 - In-house Development (recommended)	Option 4 - Standard WebDynpro

Fit to Standard	+ Basic UI configuration delivered as standard - Custom build for OT Integration, WF Customization & SAC Integration	+ Intermediate custom layer on standard App - Custom build for OT Integration, WF Customization	- 100% custom build	+ Basic UI configuration delivered as standard - Custom build for Custom fields, OT Integration, WF Customization
Implementation Cost	- High implementation cost, high ongoing cost	+ Medium implementation cost, minimal ongoing cost	+ Medium implementation cost, minimal ongoing cost	+ Medium implementation cost, minimal ongoing cost
Implementation Effort	+ Basic functionality delivered with solution - Medium in-house build effort	- Medium in-house build effort, - Personas for Web Dynpro may have limitations than Personas for Web GUI	- Large in-house build effort	- Medium in-house build effort
Design & UI Flexibility	+ Ability to influence UI through configuration - Limited option to customize as we need to work within framework	+ Ability to influence UI through configuration	+ Full flexibility to incorporate business requirements	- No option to customize
Business Acceptance	+ Meets most business expectations/requirements	+ Meets most business expectations/requirements	+ Meets all business expectations /requirements	- Does not meet business expectations /requirements
Alignment with Syway Development Approach	+ Meets Syway approach for complex requirement build	- Syway development approach limit Personas to simple screen enhancements / simplifications / automations with limited scripting	+ Meets Syway approach for complex requirement build	- Not aligned with Syway development approach

See also

File	Modified
PDF File KDD099 Approval email.pdf	Mar 03, 2026 by WENNINGER-ext, Sascha
File KDD - Custom UI for PPM.eml	Mar 03, 2026 by UPADHYAY-ext, Anjali
PDF File KDD099 - PPM Custom App - DA Endorsement.pdf	Mar 03, 2026 by CRESPIN-ext, Edouard

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Change log

Version	Published	Changed By	Comment
CURRENT (v. 54)	Mar 03, 2026 10:43	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	added stakeholders
v. 53	Feb 25, 2026 10:49	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	
v. 52	Feb 25, 2026 10:48	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	
v. 51	Feb 24, 2026 05:57	NARAHARI-ext, Bhargavi	
v. 50	Feb 24, 2026 05:45	NARAHARI-ext, Bhargavi	
v. 49	Feb 24, 2026 05:27	NARAHARI-ext, Bhargavi	
v. 48	Feb 23, 2026 10:55	UPADHYAY-ext, Anjali	
v. 47	Feb 23, 2026 10:37	UPADHYAY-ext, Anjali	
v. 46	Feb 23, 2026 10:16	UPADHYAY-ext, Anjali	
v. 45	Feb 23, 2026 10:15	UPADHYAY-ext, Anjali	

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Workflow history

This view shows the 5 most recent entries. The complete workflow log is available from the 'Document Activity' menu item.

Mar 03, 2026	Actor	Type	Activity	Version
Approved	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	State	changed state to Approved at 1:02 pm	v54
Pending SteerCo Review	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	State	gave <i>Final Approval</i> approval at 1:02 pm Approval email attached	
		Edit	updated the page at 10:43 am added stakeholders	
		State	changed expiry date to '17 Mar, 2026 10:04 am' at 10:04 am	
		State	changed state to Pending SteerCo Review at 10:04 am	v54
		Pending Stakeholder Review	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	State
		State	changed expiry date to '10 Mar, 2026 09:43 am' at 9:43 am	
		State	changed state to Pending Stakeholder Review at 9:43 am	v54
Edited following DA Endorsement	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	State	gave <i>Minor change</i> approval at 9:43 am	
		State	changed state to Edited following DA Endorsement at 9:43 am	v54
Feb 25, 2026				
Pending Stakeholder Review	WENNINGER-ext, Sascha	Edit	updated the page at 10:48 am	