SAP Ariba

Feature at a Glance
Attributes for planning items

Content Owner Margherita Monni, SAP Ariba
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THE BEST RUN **SAP**

Feature at a Glance
Introducing: **Attributes for planning items**

Customer challenge

The current standard attributes fields (e.g. Customer part no. Customer location, Planner code, Line of Business etc.) in the Planning collaboration functionalities are pre-defined fields and cannot be modified by the customer. For some customers these standard attributes may not be sufficient to properly identify a planning record. Some customers may want to share additional information in the customer-defined fields. Some customers may also want to use the additional fields as a unique identifier for the planning record. For example, a customer may want to add a new field called "Promotion" and use the value of the Promotion field to identify the planning record on top of Customer part no. and Customer location.

However, up until now the Planning collaboration functionalities on Ariba Network would not allow to share any information beyond standard attributes, and this results in a limitation of the collaboration between buyers and supplier.

Solution area

SAP Ariba Supply Chain Collaboration – Planning collaboration and Forecast collaboration add-on

Meet that challenge with
SAP Ariba

With the new customer defined attributes the customer can now send additional information to be displayed on the planning record and optionally use the new attributes as additional identifiers for the planning records. This allows buyers to be able to share their planning collaboration data no matter how complex the planning model they use is, thus opening more collaboration opportunities with their suppliers resulting in a more agile and responsive supply chain.

Implementation information

This feature is automatically on for all customers with the applicable solutions but requires **customer configuration**.

Experience key benefits

- Enables capability for buyers to share planning information at greater granularity of information
- Increases flexibility for customers by providing additional information fields for planning records.

Prerequisites and Restrictions

SAP Ariba Supply Chain Collaboration – Planning collaboration or Forecast collaboration add-on

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Detailed feature information

The customer defined feature will allow the customer to define new attribute fields that will be used to provide additional information about planning records.

The customers can give the new field a name of their choice and send the information via Characteristic element of cXML

The customer may decide whether the new attributes will be used as root or non root attributes.

The supplier will be able to see the new customer defined attributes on the Ariba Network web UI and all supplier commit/ replenishment message will automatically include customer defined attributes in the cXML

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Planning settings – Attributes library

Customers can configure the new attribute fields in the Planning > Settings> Attributes library page.

1. The customer must specify the process type for which they want to create new attributes from the Process type drop down

2. Clicking on +Add new attribute opens the new attribute editor page

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Planning settings – attributes library

In the new attribute editor popup the customer provides details on the new field to be introduced

1. Display name: this is the new attribute field name that will be displayed on the Ariba Network web UI and Planning excel jobs

2. Root attribute switch determines whether the attribute will be used as unique key for planning records (if set to yes the new attribute will be used as unique key on top of existing root attributes: Customer part no, Customer location, System ID and Vendor ID)

3. Expression: is used to map the new attribute to the corresponding Characteristic in the planning cXML messages

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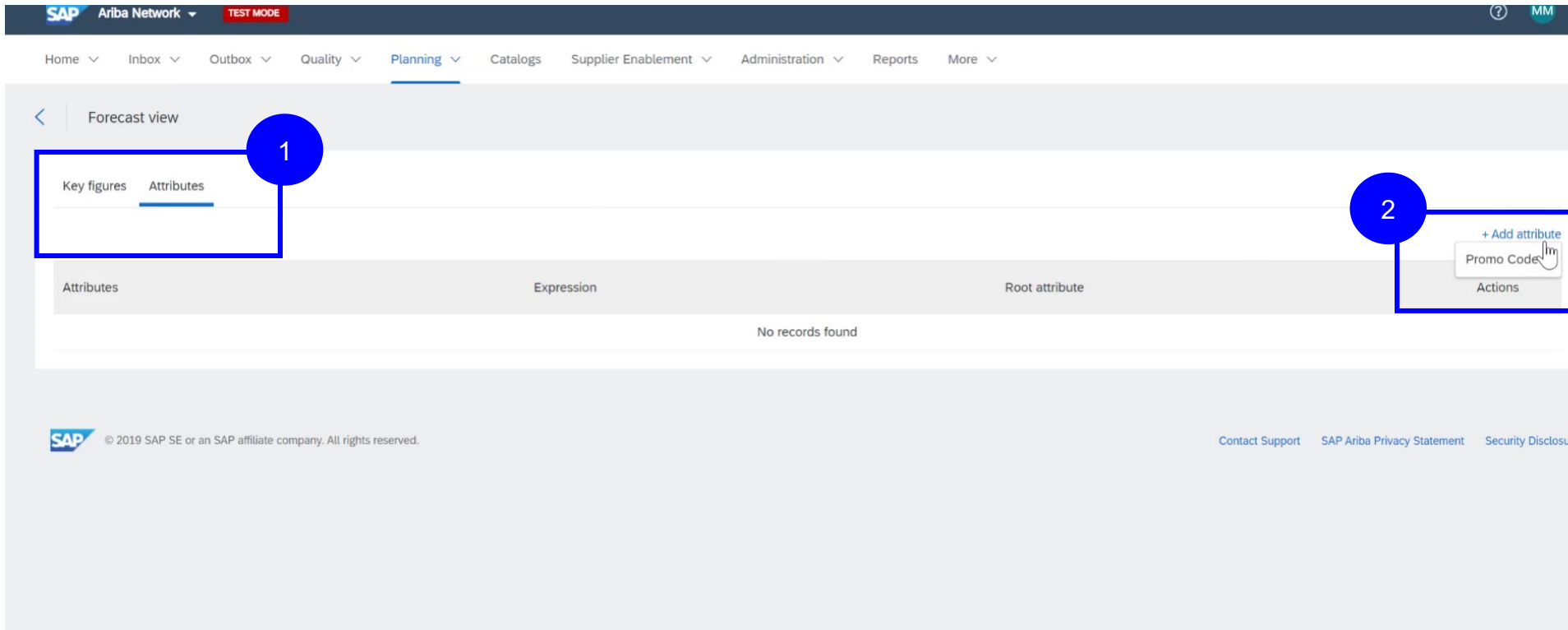
Planning settings – manage views

After creating the attribute in the library, the customer can add it to specific Planning views

1. A new Attributes tab is added on all planning views settings pages

2. Click on + Add attribute to select an attribute to add to the view from the ones available in the Attributes library

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Planning list pages

After setup, the new attribute information will become available in the Planning collaboration web UI

1. A new column will be added for each customer Attribute, the column header will have the Display name chosen by the customer for the attribute

2. Users can also search planning records for a specific attribute value,

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Planning record details

The attribute value is displayed also in the planning details page

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Upload/ download job editor

Users can also use customer defined attribute fields as filters in the upload/ download job creation parameters

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Planning excel jobs

All customer defined attributes and their values will be visible in the uploaded planning excels