

Early Release Series for 2308: Source-to-Contract

Webcast Q&A

August 2, 2023

The following questions were asked by participants of the above noted webcast and answered by our SAP Procurement Product Experts to the best of their knowledge at the given time. Questions have been grouped by related topic.

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Category Management (General)

Could you please provide us some documents to understand the Category management solution capabilities and how it will help customers.	Please register the SAP Ariba Category Management deep dive session on August 10. More details will be provided in that session. You will find the registration in the "thank you" email later today.
Does Category management solution available in all data centers?	With the first release, it will only be available in EU and US DCs
Why are you reviewing the Category Management framework today on this call? Is this part of the 2308 Release?	Yes, it is part of the 2308 release, and we will also have a deep dive session next week to show some demo`s and product features.
When this module will be available for use for customers in Middle East region?	I need to confirm exact date, but I believe it's targeted for some time in 2024.
is it needed to do any enablement for category management?	If by enablement, you mean setup, there are some configuration items required in order to use the solution. If that's not what you're asking, please share a bit more by what you mean by enablement.
Will the Category Management solution integrate with Fieldglass and drive category initiatives in the service/SoW area?	This is not currently on our roadmap, but certainly could be submitted as a customer influence suggestion. I will also mention to our product team.
For Cat management, where do category come from (custom master data) or UNSPSC data?	Customers are able to define what their preferred taxonomy is and can upload into the system. Will share more on that in my deep dive session next Thursday.
Does category management has inbuild out of the box integration with other Ariba modules and SAP System. similar to Ariba connected to CIG. Or it requires custom integration?	CIG is the technical integration layer. Category Management is integrated with Guided Sourcing already to create sourcing initiatives (so process integration fully supported).

is Category option, in addition to Commodity Code, possible in Downstream?	Is your question related to Category Management? If so, can you elaborate. Not quite following what you're hoping to do in Downstream.
Could you please provide us some documents to understand the Category management solution capabilities and how it will help customers.	Please register the SAP Ariba Category Management deep dive session on August 10. More details will be provided in that session. You will find the registration in the "thank you" email later today.

Category Management (Licensing)

Is category management included in Ariba suite integrated solutions	It is part of the SAP Ariba solution family; however, it will require an additional license
Is category management part of Source to Contract bundle OR is it a separate solution	It is a separate solution
Is the license for Category Management already included or needs additional license?	Yes - SAP Ariba Category Management requires an additional license.
Does category management need s license?	
If you already have the full suit, do you have to buy category management additional or is it already inside?	
Is a separate license needed for Ariba Category Management?	
if we have guided sourcing, do we need to buy licenses for category management?	

Guided Buying (GB-5252)

Reusability of line-item forms in guided buying

so with Reusability of line-item forms in guided buying, is there a way to do this for existing tiles once this goes live?	When you enable this capability, guided buying automatically migrates existing line-item tiles to new tiles that can link to one form. Then, any new tiles that you create support this many-to-one linking.
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Guided Sourcing (General)

I can see you are still updating the Guide Sourcing process with legacy process, when are you planning to stabilize the development?	The development is stabilized and to-date we have more functionality in guided sourcing than in the "classic" one. We only have a couple of functionalities left (like Matrix terms) to add to guided sourcing which we now did in 2308. We have prioritized our development based on the adoption of features in the classic version. So definitely ready to adopt ;)
Is guided Sourcing extended to a new UI for suppliers? Or is it still internal/buyer side-only?	Guided Sourcing is buyer side only. We have plans to upgrade the User Experience on the Network side as well.
Most of the updates seem to be for Guided sourcing. Are there any updates for Ariba Sourcing Event which could affect the integration between Ariba and the ERP systems?	There will be no investments into classic sourcing. All efforts will go into guided sourcing. We are currently running couple of influence programs to improve the integration from Guided Sourcing to S4 - more in H1/2024
Is guided sourcing done through same link as Guided buying?	No, it is a capability on top of Ariba Sourcing

what kind of internal/external applications are for guided sourcing?	Guided Sourcing is part of the SAP Ariba Sourcing module
Is there any integration available between guided sourcing and guided buying to send RFQ from guided buying to guided sourcing to perform the sourcing (as similar to classic sourcing now)	Yes of course - already available!
Is guided sourcing going to be mandatory for all customers? or we have option to pick between classic and guided sourcing?	new adoption to sourcing will be in guided sourcing only. Classic sourcing will still available for any customer that already using it but there will be no innovation come into classic sourcing anymore, only in guided sourcing

Icertis/Contract Management (General)

do we need to purchase a license for Icertis?	Yes - Icertis requires an additional license
is the integration of Icertis and sourcing module already finalized? is it possible to connect Icertis directly to S4?	We'll speak about the integration to guided sourcing & Icertis in the contracts section later - which S4 integration are you interested in?
We would like to know that is it possible to import the master data directly from S4 to the Icertis and send the contracts directly from Icertis to the S4	So Ariba Contract Management will always hold the e2e s2p process and therefore is needed for master data facilitation also between sourcing and the contract compliance document.
Do you plan to apply same guided sourcing project UI to contract workspace as a quick win? Current customers using Contract module are disappointed by the current UI, not evolving, not up to date, left aside roadmaps!	Our focus on product investments is our partnership with Icertis and thereof the tight integration into Icertis.
Is there any list of master data that can be integrated from Ariba to Icertis and vice-versa?	[unanswered]
Does the enhanced Icertis integration mean, that no Ariba contract workspace is created (even in the background)?	The Ariba Contract Workspace is essential to facilitate the end-to-end process, so it will require a CW.

Strategic Sourcing (SS-43516)

Configuring Read-Only Terms in Guided Sourcing

Read-only terms are good. Do you plan to apply same option to event content to make sure some buyers do not change all of the template content?	We currently don't have any plan for it yet
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Strategic Sourcing (SS-43516)

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Read-only terms is good. Do you plan to apply same option to event content to make sure some buyers do not change all of the template content?	We currently don't have any plan for it yet
can the read-only terms being introduced be deleted by the user or are they locked/required?	they will be delegated/locked depends on your authorization setting

Strategic Sourcing (SS-44822)

Enabling show options to switch to guided sourcing on all sites

Regarding [SS-44822]: will the slider only appear for users who have Guided Sourcing permission?	No, it will be visible to all: The ICM parameter Show Options to Switch to Guided Sourcing, which is currently disabled by default, will be enabled for all sites in the Q4 2023 release of SAP Ariba solutions.
So, just to clarify, is Guided Sourcing mandatory, or just the visibility thereof?	Just the slider not the capability of guided sourcing itself
Regarding The ICM parameter Show Options to Switch to Guided Sourcing: will it after 2311 release still be possible for us as customer to manually disable it?	It will become mandatory with 2311, so there won't be a parameter to hide that option

Supplier Management (General)

Also, are there any updates for Supplier Management which can affect the integration with the backend ERP system?	We will cover Supplier Management in our session next week. You can also look into the full list of features here: https://connectsupport.ariba.com/sites#item-view&/206949
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North Star (General)

Is SAP Procurement North Star focused on SAP ARIBA components only	It is including all products (Ariba, S4, BTP, Fieldglass for Services Procurement and Network)
Is that overview slide about SAP Procurement North Star available?	Yes - the material will be share with you afterwards and it has been used many times at events as well :)

Other

We are currently implementing Hanna Cloud with Ariba and we have a lot of integration problems. Are you working for the Gas & Oil companies? What improvements are you making on the integration issue?	That probably requires a deep dive in which integration issues you are experiencing and what part of the process.
Is Ariba planning to roll out the guided UI to other modules like Contracts & Catalogs?	We have a User Experience strategy that we follow and we are going to apply to the entire solution suite of the course of the coming years. Category Management & Guided Sourcing gives you a great idea into the direction that we are going :)
SAP Ariba Sourcing and Sailpoint integration is possible?	That needs further discussion to what is actually needed in terms of integration.
SCONTR-892 - Is this a customer enabled feature or available by default?	Update: Apologies, this is actually an Early Adopter Care program, so not GA. We'll update the slide. It will require some customer enablement.