

# IFS ERP & SAP S/4HANA:

## side-by-side comparison

If your organization operates in asset-intensive, service-led, project-driven or complex manufacturing environments, IFS Cloud ERP offers a strong industry-focused platform that unifies ERP, EAM, field service and operational workflows. If the goal is to establish a standardized enterprise digital core with global process harmonization, embedded finance and supply chain depth, clean-core extensibility through SAP BTP and long-term SAP transformation alignment, SAP S/4HANA is the stronger enterprise target state.

Dimension	IFS ERP today	SAP S/4HANA target state
<b>Strategic fit</b>	Strong for asset-intensive, service-centric and project-based organizations that need ERP tightly connected with EAM, field service, maintenance, workforce and operational execution.	Strong for enterprises standardizing SAP as the digital core for finance, manufacturing, procurement, supply chain, sales and global operations.
<b>Industry strength</b>	Particularly strong in aerospace and defense, manufacturing, energy, utilities, construction, engineering, infrastructure and field service-led businesses.	Strong across global enterprise industries where standardized finance, procurement, manufacturing, supply chain, compliance and enterprise reporting are priorities.
<b>Manufacturing scope</b>	Supports complex manufacturing where production, engineering, maintenance, projects, quality, assets and service lifecycle processes need to work together.	Supports digitalized manufacturing operations with real-time visibility, standardized planning, production execution and responsiveness to supply-demand changes.
<b>Asset and service management</b>	A major differentiator. IFS combines ERP with Enterprise Asset Management and Field Service Management capabilities, making it well suited for businesses that build, maintain and service assets.	Available through SAP portfolio capabilities and integrations, but often requires a broader SAP ecosystem design across S/4HANA, EAM, Service Cloud, BTP and related solutions.
<b>Operational analytics</b>	Provides operational visibility across ERP, assets, service and field execution, especially useful for maintenance, workforce, project and service performance.	Embedded analytics in SAP Fiori bring real-time insight and drill-down into transactional processes.
<b>Extensibility model</b>	Flexible, industry-oriented configuration and composability across IFS Cloud capabilities, useful when operational workflows need to adapt around specific industry needs.	Clean-core extensibility using in-app, developer and side-by-side extension patterns, including SAP BTP, to reduce core modification risk.
<b>Enterprise process standardization</b>	Strong where business processes are operationally specific and industry depth matters more than adopting a broad global ERP template.	Stronger where the business needs global templates, standardized controls, compliance, finance-led governance and long-term SAP roadmap alignment.
<b>AI direction</b>	IFS is embedding AI across asset, service and operational processes, with focus areas such as predictive operations, optimization and automation.	SAP continues embedding AI into S/4HANA Cloud business processes, user experience and operational workflows, with innovation connected to SAP BTP and Joule.
<b>What this means for outcomes</b>	Best when the company wants a unified operational ERP for asset-heavy, service-heavy or project-driven execution.	Best when the goal is enterprise process harmonization, real-time operational insight, global standardization, clean-core extensibility and SAP-led transformation.

### Executive takeaway

IFS is often the better fit when the business model revolves around assets, projects, maintenance, field service and complex operations. SAP S/4HANA is often the better fit when the organization needs an enterprise-grade digital core for global process standardization, finance and supply chain integration, embedded analytics, compliance and clean-core extensibility.

**Research sources:** IFS Cloud product materials; SAP S/4HANA and SAP BTP clean-core resources; structure adapted from the provided Acumatica & SAP S/4HANA side-by-side comparison.