

# Google Cloud Automation Enhances Retail Order Planning

Pepkor IT played a vital role in the PEP Centric PLM (Product Lifecycle Management system) by creating a cloud native Google Cloud Platform application, unifying planning and buying data for processing.

## The challenge

The PEP Merchandising team was looking to streamline Merchandising to mitigate inefficiencies and enable more informed business decision-making. They decided to tackle the heavy administrative burdens around creating styles and purchase orders. They also looked to further align planning/buying data to enhance their demand forecasting ability for suppliers and improve Gross Profit visibility.

## The solution

The collaboration of Pepkor IT & the PEP planning and buying departments, leveraged the use of Google Cloud products to develop a cloud-native Google Cloud application. The capability optimizes data inflows from multiple systems by evaluating, prioritizing and refining it before sending it on to the PLM Tool.

## The result

Suppliers now have accurate and timeous visibility on demand which reduces supplier lead times. There is now near real-time alignment between merchandise planning and buying data. The data originating from this new Order Placeholder application enables automated creation of Styles and Purchase Orders.

“The application merges complicated source data originating from various planning systems on different levels. With minimum input from the end user, the application then prioritises and processes the data so it can be integrated seamlessly into Centric where it will be converted into purchase orders.”

Liezl van Eck, Systems Analyst: Planning, Pepstores



### About PEP

Pepstores is a discount Clothing, Footwear & Homeware retailer with more than 2,600 stores. Their Centric PLM (Product Lifecycle management System) tool is a central data vault with functionality to create, access & manage all product data.

Vertical/horizontal solution: Retail & Wholesale

Primary project location: South Africa



### About Pepkor IT (Pty) Ltd

A division of Pepkor Holdings Limited, providing IT support, offering solutions and servicing 8 major retailers within Southern Africa and Africa.



## Products

Google Cloud Platform