



AT A GLANCE

Summary

Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG, one of the top 10 utilities companies in Germany's highly competitive market, needed a way to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and standardize its IT landscape. The company took a first step by streamlining its server environment with a migration to the SAP NetWeaver® Application Server component and is reaping the benefits in terms of cost savings and knowledge transfer.

Web Site

www.swd-ag.de

Key Challenges

- Replace legacy system runtime environment with future-proof application server for supplier-facing bidding application
- Take first step to consolidation of server environment for future application server migration
- Reduce IT infrastructure costs and bundle workforce resources through knowledge transfer

Project Objectives

- Migration from Sun ONE (iPlanet) server to SAP NetWeaver Application Server
- Increase in security for proprietary IGAS (Internet gestütztes Ausschreibungssystem) Internet-based system for tendering bids

Solution and Services

SAP NetWeaver Application Server

Why SAP® Solution

- Standardization of IT infrastructure based on SAP NetWeaver platform
- Implementation of SAP NetWeaver Application Server easier than upgrade to legacy system
- Potential for leveraging existing resources and know-how of SAP® software

Implementation Highlights

- Fulfillment of requirements of IGAS interface
- Migration to SAP NetWeaver Application Server in 10 staff-days
- Knowledge transfer to Stadtwerke Düsseldorf for future migrations

Key Benefits

- More secure supplier-facing IGAS bidding system
- Reduced costs
- Greater flexibility through bundling IT resources
- Consolidation of server environment through standardization of IT infrastructure
- Personnel development and increase in know-how through knowledge transfer
- Greater transparency for suppliers

Implementation Partner

CDI AG

Existing Environment

SAP R/3® software (functionality now found in the mySAP™ ERP application)

Database

Documentum

Hardware

IBM eServer pSeries 690

Operating System

Microsoft Windows Server 2003

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Dr. Matthias Mehrrens, CIO, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG

STADTWERKE DÜSSELDORF

SAP NetWeaver® Application Server Consolidates IT Strategy at Top German Utilities Company

“For Stadtwerke Düsseldorf, the SAP NetWeaver Application Server component was the obvious choice for our IT strategy. Our operating efficiency survey showed that the effects gained through implementation clearly outweighed the costs,” explains Hans-Josef Wolber – manager of application systems at Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG – as the reason for the Germany-based utilities company’s decision to introduce the SAP NetWeaver® Application Server (SAP NetWeaver AS) component.

With competition heightened in Germany’s energy provision market, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf – one of the country’s top 10 energy providers – looked at ways to increase efficiency and reduce expenditure, in terms of both costs and being able to tap more of the company’s existing resources. Applied to the company’s IT strategy, this meant overhauling the system landscape to consolidate the server environment. Wolber chose to migrate one of the company’s important legacy systems to SAP NetWeaver AS. “The decision,” he confirms, “turned the lights from amber to green!”

Migration Benefits Economics and Technology of Strategy

Before migrating to SAP NetWeaver AS, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf’s IGAS (Internet gestütztes Ausschreibungssystem) – an Internet-based bidding system developed by the company’s implementation partner CDI – ran on the Sun ONE (iPlanet) application server. Online since 2001, the software environment had seen its fair share of updates.

However, in 2004, the company no longer felt that the system was able to fulfill all of its requirements, above all in terms of being secure and up-to-date.

On top of that, with a new update imminent, Wolber wanted to take advantage of the situation by reviewing the cost-effectiveness of such an update. As Wolber explains, “Stadtwerke Düsseldorf looked at what would be more economical: going with the release upgrade or migrating to SAP NetWeaver AS. Since the somewhat obsolete Sun ONE application was no longer fit for transport to the new version, we decided to migrate to SAP NetWeaver AS.”

SAP NetWeaver AS Builds on Existing Know-How

Beyond the question of being cost-effective, SAP NetWeaver AS was also well suited to Stadtwerke Düsseldorf’s SAP NetWeaver-oriented strategy. “To a great extent, our decision to migrate to SAP NetWeaver AS,” explains Dr. Matthias Mehrrens, CIO at Stadtwerke Düsseldorf, “had to do with how Stadtwerke Düsseldorf can acquire a better knowledge platform to support and drive applications. Since we knew that the SAP NetWeaver platform would enable us to leverage and bundle our resources more flexibly, nothing other than SAP NetWeaver AS really came into question.”

The migration made sense for the simple reason that the know-how needed to utilize the component was already available in-house. Instead of having to acquire new knowledge on the small but detailed aspects of upgrading the legacy environment, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf was able to draw on the knowledge it had acquired in the first SAP NetWeaver implementation phase with the installation of the SAP NetWeaver Exchange Infrastructure (SAP NetWeaver XI) component.

SAP NetWeaver XI Leads Way for Further Advances

At the end of 2004, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf implemented the first SAP NetWeaver XI pilot project in the utilities sector to streamline integration of SAP® and non-SAP applications. The benefits derived from the SAP NetWeaver XI implementation made themselves felt in all aspects of the IT infrastructure: on economical, technical, operational, and organizational levels.

“All of our expectations were fulfilled. Besides having more stable and available systems, we are better equipped to monitor and identify process errors more quickly and precisely through use of a central development, administration, and operation platform,” Wolber says. He adds, “By minimizing and concentrating

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Hans-Josef Wolber, Manager of Application Systems,
Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG

operations and tasks, our developers can also concentrate on acquiring qualifications and knowledge, and they also enjoy working with these future-oriented tools. Stadtwerke Düsseldorf now has a proper foundation on which to install further applications with greater ease.”

One example of how the implementation meets business requirements is in the area of waste management, one of Stadtwerke Düsseldorf’s core businesses. The effortlessness of process integration into the platform now closely groups SAP applications (like the SAP Waste and Recycling application) with non-SAP applications (like geographic information systems and external services), thereby leveraging Web services.

More Transparency for End Users

With the flexibility provided by the SAP NetWeaver platform to implement further components, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf took the next step in its phased approach to consolidation and standardization of the system in the first quarter of 2006 by migrating – with the help of CDI – to SAP NetWeaver AS. The decision to follow an SAP NetWeaver-oriented strategy enabled Stadtwerke Düsseldorf to implement a component that adheres to the company's key requirements for its supplier-facing bidding system, IGAS.

“With SAP NetWeaver AS, we now have an application server that provides the security we need, is easily accessible for our suppliers, and facilitates integration of our material management and document management systems. Last but not least, the interface is modern and therefore transparent to our external traffic,” Mehrstens explains.

SAP NetWeaver AS a Firm Basis for Consolidation

At the same time, with the success of the migration to SAP NetWeaver AS – with which Stadtwerke Düsseldorf is gaining new experience and expertise every day – the company has taken its first step toward reducing application servers and consolidating its server landscape company-wide. From now on, any new application server implementation will be carried out with SAP NetWeaver AS. “As Stadtwerke Düsseldorf now has the infrastructure,” Wolber adds, “we have already managed to sustainably reduce the effort needed for implementation. We are making great headway with our knowledge of SAP NetWeaver AS. This type of migration is now easy to execute.”

Going the Full Course with SAP NetWeaver

By building on the success of the implementation of SAP NetWeaver XI and the migration to SAP NetWeaver AS, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf plans to establish a comprehensive enterprise service-oriented architecture (enterprise SOA). Now and in the future, this strong platform strategy sets the course for an expanded, step-by-step, and long-term integration of SAP NetWeaver components.

The benefits are tangible, not only in qualitative but also in quantitative terms. Besides providing the transparency needed for sustainable business decisions, the new enterprise SOA is highly cost-effective. “We already expect to reach all cost reduc-

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tion goals set for 2008 and 2009 – as required by our operating efficiency survey,” says Mehrstens, describing the benefits for Stadtwerke Düsseldorf since it implemented the individual SAP NetWeaver components. “We have managed to save costs through standardization and consolidation in the area of maintenance and personnel. By installing and organizing SAP NetWeaver components, building up know-how, and training employees, we have clearly made excellent progress. We can make good use of this platform.”

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