



Meyer Werft distinguishes itself among global competitors by leveraging an SOA from IBM.

Overview
Meyer Werft GmbH Papenburg, Germany www.meyer-werft.de
Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ship building
Employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,300
Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBM WebSphere Process Server IBM WebSphere MQ
Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBM Global Business Services



“Without the integration and efficiency that the IBM WebSphere software-based SOA provides, we would not have been able to increase quality and productivity in the change process to this considerable extent.”

— Jörg Ackermann, IT manager, Meyer Werft GmbH

Founded in 1795, Meyer Werft GmbH is a shipyard that specializes in cruise liners; luxury car and passenger ferries; roll-on, roll-off and passenger ships; and gas tankers and livestock carriers. As a builder of some of the world’s most inventive and comfortable cruise liners, Meyer Werft stays competitive in the global shipbuilding industry by seeking to adapt to meet customer requirements and accommodate changes to orders during the shipbuilding process—all while still delivering a high-quality product on time and within budget.

Challenge

The organization’s IT infrastructure—based on siloed, heterogeneous systems that the company had inefficiently weaved together over time—no longer supported Meyer Werft’s need to run an adaptable, integrated business. To boost its competitive advantage, the shipbuilder needed to transform its IT infrastructure into a modern environment that would support the integration and automation of enterprisewide business processes as a set of linked services. Meyer Werft also had the goals of improving data quality across different systems and reducing the time required to build ships in the context of its one-of-a-kind production processes.

Solution

Meyer Werft is now able to react quickly to customer needs, build its ships to even higher standards of quality and deeper levels of customization, and compete dynamically in the global marketplace. The company teamed with IBM Global Business Services and the IBM Software Group to launch the ICEflow application, which enables Meyer Werft to prioritize shipbuilding tasks and make changes on the fly. Based on IBM WebSphere® software, the service-oriented architecture (SOA) solution gives Meyer Werft an overall picture of the entire shipbuilding process and allows employees to quickly implement changes at every stage of the production process.



The company used IBM WebSphere Process Server V6.0.1 software as the basis for the ICEflow application, while IBM WebSphere MQ V5.3 middleware provides the communication platform between the ICEflow application and the company's back-end Dassault Systèmes ENOVIA product lifecycle management (PLM) system.

A Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) technology-based application, the ICEflow platform displays in one view all of the information needed to perform different production tasks, thereby providing an overall picture of the entire process. The ICEflow application makes it easy for any employee to complete production tasks using a Web-based front end that also reports production status. Specifically, the ICEflow application supports special change-management methodologies in the steel production component of the shipbuilding process—a highly automated and integrated part of the overall production process.

The ICEflow application is only one part of the company's overall SOA environment. In addition to using the SOA approach to help it switch from a siloed IT infrastructure to an integrated IT environment, Meyer Werft is using the SOA approach to transform how various divisions conduct business. Had the company not embraced the SOA solution, Meyer Werft estimates that it would have closed its doors within five years.

Benefits

- Facilitates the ability to react quickly to customer needs, build its ships to even higher standards of quality and deeper levels of customization, and compete more effectively in the global marketplace
- Reduces errors while increasing employee productivity
- Unites all of the company's change management information and makes it available via a single Web-based interface

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