IBM

Streamlink streamlines procurement processes with IBM e-business solution.

Application	Web-based procurement software
Business Benefits	For Streamlink: 100% payback in 12 months; eight-month reduction in development time; For customers: up to 70% reduction in operational costs; 5% to 50% decrease in cost of goods; more than 75% reduction in purchase order costs
Software	IBM WebSphere™ Application Server, Advanced Edition IBM DB2® Universal Database™ on multiple platforms IBM VisualAge® for Java™
Services	IBM Global Services

More and more companies are turning to the power of the Web to transform traditional paper-based internal and external processes. Australian-based Streamlink Pty Ltd.—an IBM Premier Business Partner—was one of the first to recognize the benefits of e-business. In 1993, Streamlink developed *e*-Procure— a Web-based procurement solution that manages internal requests, budget availability, approval processes, purchase orders and supplier performance information.

"The robustness and flexibility of DB2 and WebSphere Application Server allowed us to move quickly, capturing a strong foothold in the market to provide Web-based procurement solutions worldwide."
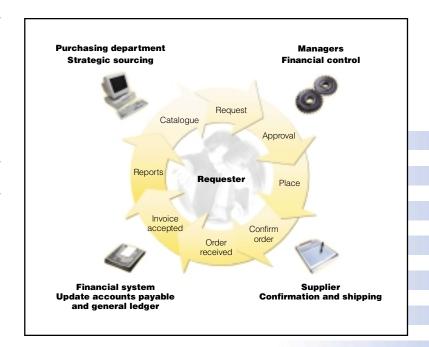
—Martin Fisk, Managing Director, Streamlink Pty Ltd.

Purchasing department
Strategic sourcing

Managers
Financial control

Catalogue

Request

Approval

Reports

Requester

Place

Invoice accepted

Confirm order

Order received

Financial system
Update accounts payable
and general ledger

Supplier
Confirmation and shipping

Streamlink e-Procure—powered by IBM WebSphere Application Server and IBM DB2—makes procurement fast and easy.

e-business

The original architecture of *e*-Procure—built with Lotus® Notes® and Lotus Domino™—required that customers and suppliers work in a Lotus Notes environment. Desiring a platform-independent and more robust solution, Streamlink turned to IBM Global Services to reengineer the architectural design of *e*-Procure using IBM DB2 Universal Database, IBM WebSphere Application Server, Advanced Edition and IBM VisualAge for Java.

Using their Web browsers, customers and suppliers access *e*-Procure to track shipments, check pricing, submit orders and much more. Martin Fisk, managing director at Streamlink, notes, "Using IBM's open-standard software, we've been able to create a complete e-business solution for our customers. VisualAge for Java has enabled us to reduce our development cycle by eight months." Fisk expects 100 percent payback on the investment will be achieved within 12 months.

Customers using *e*-Procure are reporting up to a 70 percent reduction in operational costs while seeing significant improvements in productivity. Other benefits include a 5 percent to 50 percent reduction in cost of goods and a more than 75 percent decrease in purchase order costs. "With *e*-Procure, customers have the opportunity to reduce costs while leveraging supplier relationships," explains Fisk. "Our partnership with IBM proved invaluable in our development of *e*-Procure, which we project will generate a ten-fold increase in sales over the next year."

IBM technology improves procurement flow

DB2 provides the data management infrastructure for *e*-Procure, storing catalog information that includes products, suppliers, pricing and shipment lead times. "DB2 was a very logical choice for us," says Fisk. "We needed an industrial-strength database that could scale to the processing demands of large corporations, while still being flexible enough to serve small and medium-size businesses."

Streamlink integrated WebSphere Application Server with *e*-Procure to minimize the development and ongoing maintenance of customer Web sites. "We needed a middleware solution that would reduce development time and costs while maintaining the ability to scale to millions of transactions," explains Fisk. "WebSphere Application Server provides an easy-to-use interface, enabling us to manage all types of customer transaction requirements." Java servlets—developed with VisualAge for Java—drive the *e*-Procure transactions. This server-side processing eliminates the need for high-speed client connections to *e*-Procure, allowing more companies to benefit from its robust procurement functionality.

IBM—a valuable partner

Streamlink continues to look for new technologies to further improve *e*-Procure. "We're very excited about the XML technology in WebSphere Application Server and are currently working with IBM to integrate XML into the messages generated by *e*-Procure," notes Fisk.

"Our partnership with IBM has been a valuable asset," says Fisk. "Both the technical expertise of IBM Global Services and the robustness and flexibility of DB2 and WebSphere Application Server allowed us to move quickly, capturing a strong foothold in the market to provide Web-based procurement solutions worldwide."

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