

BWSC standardizes its ERP system in pursuit of digitalization



Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) is a unique company in every way except when it comes to IT. In just five months, the company has done away with all its ERP system's many customizations and upgraded to a completely standard ERP system from IFS—a choice that supports BWSC's rapid growth and digitalization.

Constructing power plants is not for everyone. The large plants require great expertise and a special ability to manage projects with many subcontractors, often at distant locations. BWSC, which has its headquarter in Denmark, is one of the most skilled players in the industry. The company is known for the quality, accuracy, and control of its construction projects, characteristics that are attributable at least in part to the firm's sharp focus on targeted IT solutions to support its business processes.

BWSC has relied on IFS software since 2008. IFS has been the foundation for a strong phase of growth during which sales have almost tripled, the number of employees has doubled, and production has increased significantly. Whereas BWSC built an average of two power stations a year in 2008, its average annual construction rate is now 10. During this period, the ERP software provided by IFS was continuously customized to keep pace with its growth, resulting in what was practically a tailor-made system that struggled to keep up with digital development.

A whole new level

As a result, BWSC decided to initiate a comprehensive upgrade of its ERP software to IFS construction-centric platform, enabling the company to say goodbye to all its customizations and instead use a core business system that is a 100 percent standardized solution.

"Our rapid growth puts constant pressure on the organization, our processes, and the systems we use to support the business," says IT Manager at BWSC, Jens Andersen. "Our core business is managing projects and the related finances.

That's why we're so dependent on a system that can keep track of finances, and this is where we get some significantly better tools with IFS.

IFS already had a very strong project management module, but we're now at a whole new level. Just as importantly, we also got rid of the many customizations that have gotten in the way of our continued growth and optimization capabilities."

About BWSC

BWSC is a global turnkey developer, contractor and operator of tailored medium to large-scale power plants.

BWSC deals in projects for conventional engine-based power plants, floating power plants, as well as for selected renewable and hybrid technologies. For more information, please visit

www.bwsc.com



Benefits

- Digitalized workflow from order to payment, posting and follow-up
- Standard ERP solution free from customizations
- Better integration with key systems such as document management, CAC/CAM, material management
- Faster, better project delivery
- Greater customer satisfaction

Digitalization of internal processes

It's very common for IT systems to grow incrementally. Customizations always make sense when they are implemented, but over time the many customizations destroy system flexibility. This was also the case for BWSC. A few years ago, the company upgraded its IFS platform, thus gaining a glimpse of the kind of value that standardized solutions can add.

“With this upgrade we transitioned to a standardized solution of IFS's project management module, which enabled us to digitalize our entire internal workflow from order to payment, posting and project follow-up,” explains Jens Andersen.

“At the same time, we also achieved significantly smoother integration with other key systems, such as document management, CAC/CAM, and material management. Even though these were internal back-office optimizations, they have been important to our customers because they improved our quality and the speed at which we can deliver a power plant.”

Digitalization of the supply chain

“We have thus experienced the positive effect of using standardized solutions for our internal processes. Now, the goal is to achieve a similar value-add for our external processes. This has become possible after the upgrade, which also put us on a standardized version of the IFS procurement module.”

“Among other things, we're also looking into digitalizing collaboration with our subcontractors so they can register hours directly in IFS. This would be a huge optimization. On any construction site we typically have four to five subcontractors, each with hundreds of employees all of whom must record their working hours. Time reporting is a very central task in a project-driven company like ours, so digitalizing and gaining flexibility in this part of the supply chain is of paramount importance,” says Jens Andersen.

BWSC is also considering digitalization options related to vendors, an area that managers believe has the potential for even closer cooperation.



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Jens Andersen IT Manager, BWSC

Ready for the future

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It took five months to switch to a standardized ERP system—beginning with the initial planning and ending with complete implementation. According to Jens Andersen, much of that time was spent on planning internally, ensuring that the new processes were described, training everyone, and converting data correctly.

“Transitioning to a standardized solution from a customized solution that was tailored to individual functions and roles entails many questions and new routines. You cannot avoid some small bumps on the road. IFS has done a good, very professional job throughout the process, and I am very pleased with the support it has provided in connection with the project,” says Jens Andersen.

Find out more

Further information, e-mail info@ifs.com, contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, ifs.com

