BW Offshore optimizes operational efficiency with IFS

Moving to the latest version of IFS, BW Offshore realize the benefits of a global system that can support their on and offshore environments across 13 countries.

Since 2007, BW Offshore, one of the world's leading providers of floating production services to the oil & gas industry, has been using IFS ERP software to optimize operational efficiency, safety, uptime, and maintenance. A successful version upgrade, completed in Q1 2020, now sees IFS Applications 10 operating across multiple replicated environments on and offshore, serving 1800 users.

BW Offshore operates its own fleet of 15 floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) units across Asia Pacific, the Americas, Europe and West Africa, extracting 600,000 barrels of oil equivalent (Boe) per day.

Managing complex projects on a global scale

"We have a complex set-up," explains Fritz Ekløff, Head of IT & Systems at BW Offshore. "With 70 companies managing significant projects–of up to one billion dollars–and thousands of suppliers, it's critical that we have the right tools to help us.

IFS has helped us optimize and streamline the operation and management of our environment. We are now running IFS on a truly global scale, with 1800 users in 13 countries."

IFS enterprise software provides greater visibility and helps BW Offshore to gain better control of its projects. The company has better control of its costs and can quickly implement actions should the need arise.

About BW Offshore

BW Offshore operates a fleet of 15 floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) units, has executed more than 40 FPSO and FSO projects over the last 35 years.

Offices in Norway, Singapore and Brazil, the company employs 2,126 staff. Listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange, in 2019 BW Offshore generated $709.9m EBITDA.

IFS modules in use include global finance, supply chain, projects, maintenance, inventory, human resource management, maintenance (for vessels) and document management. As well as supporting replications between onshore and offshore vessels, a Global Extension ensures multi-currency capability and compliance for company subsidiaries operating in different regulatory regimes, such as Brazil.

With IFS Applications 8 nearing end-of-life, the attraction of 500+ functional updates, a new user interface, flexible architecture and enhanced role-based configuration capabilities within IFS Applications 10 cemented BW Offshore's decision to upgrade.

Maintaining continuity across replicated environments

Maintaining onshore visibility of the condition and status of all offshore sites throughout the upgrade was critical. "Data replication is paramount in our business and needs to remain stable," explains ERP System Manager Ole Ivar Gundersen. With one database onshore and one located at each offshore location, IFS Replication keeps master business-critical data and transaction updates synchronized at each site in the event communication is temporarily lost.

To ensure continuity, IFS provided an update adapter allowing onshore installations to implement IFS Applications 10 first, whilst maintaining the ability to run existing IFS Applications 8 instances with replication for offshore vessels. In total all 16 user locations, both on and offshore, have now successfully implemented IFS Applications 10 with full replication functionality. "The adapter allowed us to upgrade gradually, over 4-5 months, without operational disruption," says Gundersen.

Reducing customizations, enhancing integration

Running the latest version of IFS allows operational costs and Total Cost of Ownership to be reduced. For example, hundreds of new functional improvements in every version enable many legacy customizations to be retired, or accommodated using standard configurations, eliminating the need for maintenance. "One of our major goals during the upgrade was to reduce the 63 customizations present within the ERP. With this latest version we now have just 23," observes Gundersen. "Using restful APIs, the Applications 10 integration platform will also make integration with other systems easier going forward, helping us roll out new projects faster," he adds.

> We want to stay at the forefront when it comes to IT and digitalization and deploying the latest version of IFS supports that. The new features will streamline our business processes and make us even more efficient.

Fritz Ekløff, BW Offshore Head of IT & Systems

Enhancing usability

The IFS Applications 10 upgrade introduces enhanced IFS Lobbies, allowing decision-makers to view and drill down into key operational KPIs and actions in real time. "We can now quickly create Lobbies for different roles and departments across BW Offshore, providing all our users with an interface to fit their tasks," says Gunderson. In addition, the upgrade provides IFS Aurena, an intuitive visual interface, responsive across multiple devices. "We haven't introduced it yet, but we are looking forward to Aurena making interactions and queries even simpler for our users."

Poised for new global challenges

Given current global economic uncertainty and market volatility, BW Offshore is confident that, with IFS software, the company remains ideally placed to adapt rapidly. "The sector may face challenges, but I know with IFS Applications 10 my team has the best tools at hand to maintain our competitive advantage and maximize revenues," reflects Ekløff.

Benefits seen using IFS:

- Increased visibility
- Better project control
- Automated Replication
- Enhanced efficiency
- Maximized uptime
- Easier to access and analyze information
- More accurate decision-making
- Mobile-ready
- Global solution
- Reduced customization

Find out more

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