



ENERGY PIPELINE GAINS INTERACTIVE E-COMMERCE SYSTEM

INTERCONNECTOR (UK) LIMITED

/// CASE STUDY



Interconnector's planned 146-mile underwater natural gas pipeline would not be able to function efficiently without a system to manage gas flow. EDS, an HP company, developed a robust Web-based shipper information system, and then built a secure, monitored environment to support its demanding service-availability requirements.

CLIENT PROFILE

www.interconnector.com

The UK Department of Energy along with six global energy providers began studying the possibility of a cross-channel pipeline - a partnership which would later become Interconnector (UK) Limited.

Industry: Energy

Founded: 1994

Business Need Addressed:
Productivity

On all fronts, ISIS has been a success. Its resilient production infrastructure, coupled with 24/7 support and monitoring, ensures Interconnector consistently meets its goal of achieving service availability targets.

Interconnector needed an e-commerce system to support pipeline

In 1996, Interconnector began a historic project to build an underwater natural gas pipeline stretching from the United Kingdom to the European continent. For the first time, gas would be able to flow to and from the continent easily. But before the pipeline could commence operations, sophisticated IT systems had to be in place to manage the gas flow, ensuring business could be conducted as efficiently as the gas could be delivered.

The initial challenge was time. Anxious shippers had already begun lining up to use the pipeline in the UK's newly liberalized gas market. That meant Interconnector needed a robust shipper information system for the pipeline within an abbreviated time frame. And because it was a business-critical system, Interconnector would settle for no less than 99.9 percent availability.

EDS, which offered extensive experience in building and managing both gas transportation business systems and e-commerce platforms, was the company's first choice for a technology partner. The team proposed an innovative alliance with Interconnector's commercial development team, with both companies sharing responsibility and risk in the project. With all parties fully committed to meeting an ambitious nine-month deadline, the team set to work to find the best strategy for supporting Interconnector's international customer base.

INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLES AVAILABILITY

To meet Interconnector's demand for 99.9 percent availability, EDS designed a production infrastructure that combines a clustered server architecture, Web servers using Microsoft load balancing, and a fully resilient network with no single point of failure. Full system monitoring is in place, and EDS provides 24/7 support service. A mirrored disaster recovery site stands ready to take over processing within 15 minutes.

Services featured

- Applications Development Services
- Network Management Services
- Site Support Services
- Web Hosting Services
- Workplace Software Management Services

EDS designed system and provided hosting, security and 99.9 percent availability

The team quickly determined that a Web-based solution was the most flexible strategy for supporting users across the UK and the European continent. EDS designed and developed the Interconnector Shippers Information System (ISIS). ISIS users needed only a standard Microsoft Web browser to access up-to-the-minute shipping reports. And, shippers could sign on immediately, without having to purchase additional software.

EDS brought together a team of delivery experts experienced in networks, servers and databases to design and implement a production system capable of meeting Interconnector's high-availability requirements. And by applying EDS project management methodologies, Interconnector saw the results of this well-orchestrated effort in only a few short months.

To improve efficiency systemwide, Interconnector also turned to EDS for desktop management and office automation in support of its commercial operations. With hosting for the entire Interconnector environment also provided by EDS, the team helps ensure secure, continual access to confidential data across the system's extranet site.

System delivered within 9 months and 10 percent under budget

ISIS was delivered within nine months - for 10 percent less than its original projected budget. With its pipeline prepared to move 700 billion cubic feet of gas per year to Europe, Interconnector was ready to dramatically change the European natural-gas marketplace.

To facilitate the business side of delivering gas through the pipeline in a fluctuating market, ISIS provided shippers easy access to critical trading and transportation information in real time. On all fronts, ISIS ensured the company consistently meets its goal of achieving 99.9 percent service availability for its operations and shipper communities.

In addition, Interconnector and EDS used the alliance framework established during the initial application development to further enhance the application and streamline operational deliveries.

EDS, an HP company
5400 Legacy Drive
Plano, Texas 75024

phone: 1 800 566 9337
visit: eds.com
e-mail: info@eds.com



Microsoft