

IFS APPLICATIONS FOR EPCI CONTRACTORS - A MODERN, PROJECT DRIVEN SOLUTION

IFS Applications for EPCI Contractors offers contractors in Oil & Gas industry a modern, proven project driven business solution for efficient handling of EPCI contracts. With the project and asset lifecycle in focus, from engineering and procurement to construction/fabrication and installation, IFS Applications helps you to increase visibility and manage your projects. IFS' offers unique features including a comprehensive multi-discipline Engineering Register.

BACKGROUND AND CHALLENGES

Many suppliers to the oil and gas industry went through a software selection process prior to the turn of the century in an effort to avoid problems associated with Y2K. Unfortunately, in 1998 or 1999, application suites designed to meet the specific needs of the industry did not exist.

Many companies developed their own homegrown solutions in engineering, material management and fabrication that lack the user friendliness, 24-7 support and flexibility of modern, SOA-driven technology.

Others chose and implemented traditional manufacturing solutions that were a poor fit for their complex project business processes, or opted for an assortment of point solutions that resulted in a fragmented IT infrastructure and disjointed business processes.



The lack of industry-appropriate enterprise project software has reduced the efficiency of these companies over the years, it is hurting them now and many Contractors are looking for replacements. Today they face challenges, such as:

- Lack of application integration leading to data duplication, inaccurate data, interface costs/difficulties.
- Lack of control of material changes and project control/estimates (ETC/EAC).
- Difficult and time-consuming processes for data extraction such as Tag or DFO information

Fortunately, today, there are project-enabled offerings available that cater to the specific needs of the industry. IFS Industry Solution for EPCI Contractors features unique functionality that supports all key business processes throughout the project lifecycle.

PROJECT DRIVEN MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Instead of letting a product structure and a traditional manufacturing resources (MRP) planning system drive functions like demand, fabrication and testing, IFS industry solution features a robust, project driven material management tool. This allows you to better schedule tasks in parallel rather than in sequence. In an EPCI environment, for instance, you start fabrication long before drawings and product structures are completed. In addition IFS has standard interfaces to external planning tools.

MULTIDISCIPLINE ENGINEERING REGISTER

Integration between engineering and purchasing/fabrication and other disciplines is beneficial for any industry, but is absolutely essential for an EPCI Contractor.

For Contractors that are involved in both engineering/design and purchasing/material management and maybe even fabrication/installation this central repository for engineering data that is



shared throughout the enterprise allows for efficient and error-free handover of data between functions/disciplines.

It facilitates handover from engineering to purchasing, between fabrication and installation and maybe even, in the case of last-minute changes to the design, between engineering and installation. This level of integration delivers detailed tracking of those difficult and unexpected project changes. These changes are often difficult to manage because when there are design changes, it is not the part numbers that change, but rather the attributes of those part numbers, the documents attached to the part number and the tagged information.

These details are lost if communication from engineering consists of a simple list of part numbers released to a fabrication department, hindering the ability to handle changes and increasing project risk.

SALES- AND SUB- CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Traditional Purchase orders are fine for acquiring materials and receiving them into inventory. But are they as good for specifying the amount and qualities of concrete to be put into place or outlining a scope of services for a subsea cabling contract?

Contracts and subcontracts are not items received into inventory, but rather, represent complex agreements that involve careful development of the scope of services and then require careful performance management culminating in the application for payment process.

Technology designed to handle the typical customer order—as is found in a traditional ERP application—will not adequately deal with the complexities of the subcontract, once again exposing an EPCI contractor to risk due to the inability to proactively manage contracts and sub-contractors.

FORECASTING AND PROJECT ACCOUNTING.

This allows project controllers to look at project data and make future projections of project performance rather than just seeing—after the fact—how they wound up over budget, behind schedule or off of the specification. This allows better project forecasting than many generic MRP driven enterprise tools that are the equivalent of reading a newspaper—you can see what happened in the financial transactions, but only when it is too late to do anything about it, and it is impossible to look into the future. This real-time view of the project, which provides visibility of how project milestones are on-track or off-track and the implications for the project going forward, also enables cut-offs, reporting and forecasting independent of traditional transaction periods. It also presents automated features for fetching cost data that need to be reported into the general ledger each period. It will also allow for automation of routines for revenue recognition, an important task to ensure timely payment by the customer.

FUNCTIONAL COVERAGE IN IFS EPCI INDUSTRY SOLUTION

- Sales Contract
- Budget and Forecasting
- Project Management incl. interface to planning tools
- Multi-discipline Engineering Register (process, electrical, instrumentation, and AEC/piping)
- Document management incl Transmittals
- Procurement
- Sub Contracting
- Jobsetting/Fabrication/Construction
- Human Resources incl Time-reporting & Competence, , ,
- Financial control.
- Asset and Service Management
- Reporting
- Interface tools

LEARN MORE

To find out more about how IFS Applications for EPCI Contractors can help your organization maintain its competitive edge, visit www.IFSWORLD.com