



NCA SECURES RAPID GLOBAL EXPANSION WITH IFS INDUSTRY SOLUTION FOR OFFSHORE SERVICE PROVIDERS

NCA is experiencing increased demand for its services. The company is even exceeding its own estimates. With IFS Applications NCA has an integrated, efficient and agile solution that meets the functionality requirements of the Oil & Gas industry, enables NCA to control growth, and provides the company with improved visibility, quality and security in its global operations.

RAPID GROWTH DEMANDED A FLEXIBLE STANDARD INDUSTRY SOLUTION

“The reason for this growth is our unique technology, competent people, as well as a growing market for the removal of oil and gas platforms,” says Knut Bang, CEO of NCA. “Our market potential is huge, and our challenge is to grow in a controlled manner, where at all times we have complete control and quality assurance in all aspects of our business.”

NCA has subsidiaries in Houston, Texas, Aberdeen, Scotland, and Dubai. “We need to be where the market is, and therefore we are expecting our international activity to increase in the years to come,” says Knut Bang.

NCA needed improve the visibility, quality and security of its operations and find a standard industry solution with the agility and scalability necessary to support the continued internationalization of the business.

Previously NCA was running a financials system in combination with a number of fragmented systems mainly based on spreadsheets. The systems were not integrated, and the subsequent lack of control meant they had no consolidated view of their projects, resource allocation, material handling, or maintenance and rental requirements. These systems were not capable of handling the rapid growth the company was experiencing.

CAREFUL SELECTION

NCA wanted an integrated IT architecture that would handle rapid expansion of its business and effectively support the company’s project-intensive work processes. One of the main requirements was that data about projects, equipment and other information would be required to run seamlessly through the system and provide full visibility at all levels.

In cooperation with the consultancy firm, Ernst & Young, NCA evaluated every provider of ERP systems in the Norwegian market before selecting IFS. In addition to extensive functionality and global presence, IFS’ in-depth industry knowledge of the offshore industry was a key reason for selecting IFS, according to Knut Bang.

ABOUT NCA

Norse Cutting & Abandonment (NCA) has since its start in 1999 developed into the most complete provider of specialist services for offshore removal operations. The company strategy involves rapid growth, primarily through internationalization, but also on taking on a broader scope. NCA is a Norwegian company with main office in Stavanger, and provides services worldwide through several operational offices and agents. NCA has developed a unique, patented technology within well operations, subsea cutting and removal operations.



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“IFS has long experience of delivering business solutions to service providers in the oil and offshore industry. The company knows the business needs of our industry, and as IFS delivers a standard package, the system is already developed and proven with other companies in the industry. This was important to us. We did not have the time to wait for the development of new software nor had we the resources needed to support the software vendor with functional specifications for required modifications. The IFS offering with a standard industry solution has proven to be crucial in allowing us to implement business-critical systems in less than 3 months,” Knut Bang said.

IFS PROVIDES INTEGRATED PROJECT, MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL CONTROL

IFS supplied a process-oriented solution with seamless integration between the different areas. IFS Applications is perfectly suited to project-intensive organizations and provides an efficient information flow to secure the necessary overview and financial control.

BUSINESS-CRITICAL SYSTEMS UP IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS

NCA had a strong desire to go live as soon as possible. Because NCA’s business is seasonal it needed to implement the financial and logistical systems prior to the start of the peak season. Delays would mean the implementation would have to be postponed for one year, which would increase complexity dramatically. One of the main advantages of the IFS Applications is its component-based architecture. “This was crucial to us as it meant the implementation could be done in stages and that we could focus on the most critical aspects first,” says Knut Bang. “Thanks to this unique technology and the competent IFS people, the IFS financial and logistics solutions were up and running in less than three months.”

“The step-by-step implementation also ensured that our organizations was given vital time and training to adjust to the changes. We cannot afford any downtime, and thanks to the step-by-step implementation process and the skilful people of IFS, things have gone very smoothly,” says Bang.

A GLOBAL SOLUTION THAT GROWS WITH NCA

The second phase of this project will add maintenance, project management, document management, CRM, engineering, HR and business performance components, and will create a holistic integrated business solution that will be vital for monitoring, measuring and managing the future growth of NCA.

The benefits of IFS Applications global architecture are further illustrated by NCA being awarded the contract for cutting services related to the damage caused in the U.S.A. by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The US market is growing strongly, and this demands that the system be implemented in the US sooner than scheduled. Again the focus is on implementing the most critical components first in order to handle this large growth.

BENEFITS

- IFS industry solution secures NCA’s rapid global expansion
- Integrated project, financial and material management for project overview and financial control
- Rapid, agile and step-by-step implementation process



“With IFS we have an integrated, efficient and agile solution that provides us with improved visibility, quality and security in our global operations.”

Knut Bang, CEO of NCA



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