



IFS APPLICATIONS™ IN MOSTY-LODZ—A BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

The implementation of IFS Applications™ in Mosty-Lodz was one of the first implementations of an ERP system in the construction sector where for the first time the solution was designed and installed, including a wide functionality, especially from a project-based point of view. The IFS project management solution is used to analyze the stages of construction projects and contract profitability.

BETTER IT TOOLS NEEDED

The decision to search for an ERP system was the result of a long-term process. At a certain point the company reached a critical point of turnover, number of employees and contracts, which led to a struggle to handle the enormous amounts of data that were generated. “We expected authorized users to have access to critical data, collected in one place. That’s why during meetings with management I suggested the rapid implementation of an ERP system. It would be a huge support in obtaining the information we needed to manage the company efficiently,” says Wojciech Pater, Manager for Production Preparation, responsible for implementing IFS Applications™ in Mosty-Lodz.

Mosty-Lodz decided to implement an ERP solution that would support all its departments. However, key operational factors were project management and logistics, including issues related to transport. Additionally, it decided to implement components for accounting, manufacturing, maintenance, warehouse management, human resources and payroll. The system was unique—a result of the specific operations of Mosty-Lodz. “We carry out specific, unique projects; every bridge constructed is very different, although each one of them may consist of standard elements. That’s why the IFS project management component was very important for us and required a unique approach when we implemented it. Together with IFS consultants we analyzed process maps to map them in the system. In some cases it was necessary to customize the processes; in others the system had to be modified,” says Wojciech Pater.

Implementation took over a year. It began with an analysis and adjustment of the processes in Mosty-Lodz. Then the software licenses were purchased and installation began. A joint implementation team consisting of IFS consultants and key users from Mosty-Lodz was established to verify and modify all the details related to the implementation.

ABOUT MOSTY-LODZ JOINT STOCK COMPANY

Mosty-Lodz Joint Stock Company, established in 1992, is currently a leader in bridge construction in Poland. The company has participated in the construction of the largest bridges in the country. Since the beginning of its activities, Mosty-Lodz has focused its core business on bridge construction. In 2002 the company also started production of metal beams. Mosty-Lodz was one of the first companies in the Polish construction industry to implement an integrated ERP system.



Photo: Mosty-Lódź

ERP FUNCTIONALITY FOR THE ENTIRE BUSINESS

Currently all the components are up and running, including IFS Financials, IFS Distribution, IFS Manufacturing, IFS Maintenance, IFS Project Management, IFS Human Resources and IFS Payroll. A further improvement of warehouse management will take place, because data currently entered by the employees are not up to date. Difficulties are caused by the dispersed structure of handling supplies as each construction site requires a separate warehouse.

The key component is IFS Project Management, used for project pricing and to monitor profitability and level of fulfillment. IFS Maintenance is used to support the servicing of the expanded Mosty-Lodz plant, whereas IFS Manufacturing is used for planning, production support and monitoring prefabricate utilization for ongoing projects. IFS Distribution supports logistic operations in the projects. Each transaction registered in areas covered by the system is reflected in IFS Financials. Moreover, IFS Human Resources and IFS Payroll components enable employees to report attendance, which forms the basis for calculating salaries. Management reports, which are much easier to generate thanks to IFS Applications, consist mostly of information about the financial status of the company. Therefore, they also include achieved results, such as profits, losses, equipment efficiency, materials consumption and utilization of time.

MORE EFFICIENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Regardless of the system development in the project area, it is already possible to see the benefits of the implementation. The most important ones are more streamlined business processes in the company and online access to data in a single database. It is now possible to monitor receivables and quickly initiate a claim process. Claims need to be documented and justified, which requires detailed data. Thanks to IFS Applications, the required data can be quickly gathered. The benefits also include the ability to report time and attendance, including overtime.

“We really appreciate the cooperation with IFS consultants. They are professionals and always seek optimal solutions. This is especially important considering that this was one of the first implementations of an ERP system in the Polish construction industry. We were learning from each other. We were trained to use the new system and they, in turn, increased their knowledge of the construction industry, where every project is completely different. Having made a decision to implement an ERP system on such a scale, we consider ourselves pioneers in this sector. Today we cannot imagine operating without IFS Applications,” says Wojciech Pater.

BENEFITS

- Streamlined business processes
- Data alignment
- Single location for data
- Ability to monitor receivables from contractors
- Simpler worktime management management

SOFTWARE

- IFS Financials™
- IFS Distribution™
- IFS Manufacturing™
- IFS Maintenance™
- IFS Project Management™
- IFS Human Resources™
- IFS Payroll™

Number of users: 50



“We chose the solution that impressed us most and was more user-friendly. The professionalism of the consultants and their attitude toward the client was also very important. That’s why we chose IFS Applications.”

Wojciech Pater, Manager for Production Preparation in Mosty-Lodz