



HAFSLUND OPTIMIZES AND POWERS UP WITH IFS APPLICATIONS™

A broad IT solution directly adapted to the specific needs of the energy sector—that was the result of the collaboration between Hafslund, two other energy providers and IFS. Today, Hafslund is enjoying major gains in the shape of reduced costs, lower time consumption and increased reliability. In addition, continuous dialog with the R&D department at IFS means that new IT support can be added as requirements change.

Norwegian utility Hafslund and IFS go back a long time together. The journey started more than 10 years ago, when Hafslund realized it needed to standardize and streamline its internal processes and therefore began to look at a number of different ERP providers. “IFS’ competence in the energy sector and its solutions for asset management, internal procurement and work orders combined with its local presence were decisive,” recalls Inger Lise Ekeren, ERP system owner at Hafslund.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

In 2001, Hafslund began to implement IFS Applications at its facilities. To date, there are more than 1,150 users of IFS Applications throughout some 30 Hafslund subsidiaries. Over time, there are plans for a more extensive use of the solution, and additional functionality is expected to be introduced.

In connection with an IFS Applications upgrade, Hafslund, IFS and two other energy providers developed a broad, industry-specific solution with support for areas such as financials, logistics, project management, asset management, work orders, document management and human resource management. “The common processes give us a uniform view right across the entire company, with numerous additional benefits as a result,” says Ekeren.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Hafslund continuously develops its IT systems in order to be able to support the company’s changing requirements. A common theme throughout has been collaboration with IFS partners—to optimize the user interface in a number of areas, for example—and with the R&D department at IFS.

Among other things, Hafslund has undergone considerable consolidation; at the same time, the company is expected to collaborate more closely with its suppliers, giving rise to additional demands. To be better equipped to meet these

ABOUT HAFSLUND

With about 1,100 employees, Norwegian-based Hafslund ASA is one of the largest publicly listed energy companies in the Nordic region. It is Norway’s largest grid operator and electricity vendor. It is also a major producer of renewable energy and has been producing electricity from environmentally friendly hydropower for more than 110 years. Hafslund is also a significant provider of telecom services and is one of the owners of REC, a solar energy company.



changes, Hafslund, in collaboration with two other energy providers and IFS, has developed B2B Contracting, which offers broad IT support to efficiently manage sub-contractors and includes support for document transfer.

“We also want to add a solution in our manufacturing entity that will enable sub-contractors to report directly into the system, for example when they are in the field working on the grid and district heating,” says Ekeren.

During 2011, IFS Document Management was implemented at Hafslund Nett with the aim of streamlining document management processes so as to provide better support for the company’s main areas: projects, asset management, and operations.

“The collaboration between IFS and Hafslund Nett has been mutually beneficial and proactive,” says Dag Akselsen, responsible for IT strategies at Hafslund Nett.

EVEN BETTER VERSION

The joint software development has given Hafslund considerable opportunities to influence the final product, just as the success IFS enjoys with its industry-specific solutions for the energy & utilities sector is hardly mere coincidence. The software vendor’s first commercial product, from the 1980s, was in fact a maintenance solution for energy providers. Today, IFS has its own forum for customers in the energy & utilities sector.

Currently, Hafslund is planning to implement an improved version of IFS Applications, with a more modern user interface and with many earlier customizations being integrated into the standard solution instead. Hafslund is also considering further use of the project management functionality in IFS Applications.

EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE

Despite costs in terms of time and effort, the implementation of IFS Applications has been profitable for Hafslund. Processes such as invoice management are now handled more swiftly and with fewer resources. Moreover, standardization of work orders has resulted in greater efficiency and higher quality. The same benefits can be noted with respect to time and attendance reporting as well.

“All in all, Hafslund has reduced its IT costs by making the transition from several overlapping systems to a common solution,” says Ekeren.

Because Hafslund is a listed company, demands on reporting are very high. Now, because it can generate efficient monthly reports based on a common solution, Hafslund has also increased the reliability and speed of its financial reporting.

BENEFITS

- Lower total IT costs
- Good project control thanks to a higher degree of automation and uniformity
- Increased reliability and speed in financial reporting
- Incoming invoices handled faster with fewer resources
- Standardized maintenance processes resulting in higher efficiency and increased quality
- Automation for more cost-effective time reporting



“The common processes give us a uniform view right across the entire company, with numerous additional benefits as a result. All in all, Hafslund has reduced its IT costs by making the transition from several overlapping systems to a common solution.”

Inger Lise Ekeren, ERP system owner at Hafslund



©Photo Hafslund