

GLITRE ENERGI MANAGES EXTENSIVE PROJECT PORTFOLIO IN IFS APPLICATIONS™

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When three Norwegian energy companies—EB Group, Lier Nett, and Hadeland Energinett—merged into one, the need for a common, structured, and efficient project process became apparent. Today, IFS Projects™ is crucial for both project managers and suppliers as it provides a coherent view of each of the hundreds of projects running in parallel.

Norwegian-based energy provider, Glitre Energi, supplies electricity to customers in the regions of Buskerud and Hadeland in Norway. Within the enterprise, business division Glitre Energi Nett services approximately 90,000 customers and is responsible for regional power lines in Buskerud, a large distribution network across densely populated areas, and numerous facilities.

Hundreds of projects are running at the same time. The projects have varying lengths and are managed by many different project managers located at different departments at Glitre Energi Nett.

“Whenever something new is built, something is to be repaired or replaced, a new project is initiated,” says Bent Gabrielsen, Systems Coordinator at Glitre Energi. “It’s absolutely necessary to both have a good project overview and to handle project finances with precision.”

3 PROCESSES BECAME 1

When the three companies were to be merged, it was decided that they should deploy a common project process. Historically, one of the companies had handled projects partly in IFS Applications, but the others had also used Microsoft® Excel®, emails, etc. This meant that a lot of information was linked to the project manager, and that data wasn’t gathered in a single place. Common processes, from budgeting to signing off, also differed between the companies.

“Our goal was to establish the simplest project process possible and to provide sufficient management and control,” says Bent Gabrielsen, Systems Coordinator at Glitre Energi.

Over a decade ago, Glitre Energi had chosen IFS Applications as its overall ERP solution to support work processes within maintenance, financials, spare parts logistics, human resource management, document management, project finance, procurement, and project management. Now, the board decided that IFS Applications should be utilized even more, and that all three companies should start using IFS Projects, IFS Project Budget & Forecasting™, IFS B2B Contracting™ along with document, project finance and procurement management software from IFS, together with Netbas, the tool where all detailed information about the facilities resides.

ABOUT GLITRE ENERGI

Glitre Energi is an energy and power supply group consisting of the business areas Glitre Energi Produksjon, Glitre Energi Nett, and Glitre Energi Strøm. All power Glitre Energi sells to its customers is 100% renewable and comes from the company’s hydropower plant production. Headquartered in Drammen, Glitre Energi owns and operates 20 power plants located in eastern Norway together with 50 transformer stations, 996 kilometers of regional power lines, and 7,100 kilometers of power lines for distribution of electricity.

www.glitreenergi.no

BENEFITS

- A common view of each project across departments
- Improved control over project finance, time, quality, and progress
- Improved reporting functionality with accurate figures
- Simplified bidding procedure with direct supplier access

GOALS WITH NEW PROCESS

The Board's expectations on the new coherent project process were high; both project managers and suppliers were expecting to save time on project planning, execution, and reporting. Project costs for the distribution network were to be reduced by ten percent, and for the regional network, a ten percent time reduction in internal project reporting and follow-up was expected.

When the new project process was established, experiences and best practice from all three companies were considered. The project managers were involved at an early stage, which meant that they gained a thorough understanding of how IFS Applications would support and simplify their everyday work.

INSTANT ACCESS TO INFO

After about six months of implementation and tests, together with a handful of training sessions, the new project solution went live. Now, approximately 50 people within Glitre Energi Nett use IFS Projects, with its budgeting, forecasting and reporting capabilities. The users are mainly project managers, but also inspectors out in the field.

"Each project follows the same execution structure," says Bent Gabrielsen. "Data is no longer in the head of a single person but instead located in IFS Applications—being able to gather all data is really the key. Our project managers now have access to all necessary project information in one single view, and can follow costs linked to specific activities over time."

This also means that each individual project manager can take more overall responsibility for the whole project; earlier, several people had handled separate parts.



Without IFS Applications, we wouldn't have such good control over project economy and processes—the solution is crucial for our operation

Bent Gabrielsen, Systems Coordinator at Glitre Energi

LINK TO SUPPLIERS

There are several other benefits. For example, work orders are now linked to the project, invoices can be raised from the project, and suppliers get direct access via a portal. The solution has also improved the bidding procedure; as all data and documents are gathered in IFS Applications, suppliers can make their bids directly into the system.

"It was actually a real epiphany for the project managers when they realized how easy the bidding process had become," says Bent Gabrielsen.

With project details, budget and forecasting capabilities in place, reporting also advanced to a new level. Project reporting needs to support both the project manager's perspective, focusing on time, budget and quality, and the controller's perspective, where accrual of costs is in focus—and all this is facilitated by IFS Applications.

CRUCIAL FOR OPERATION

What about the board's overall goals then? Has the improved project process realized them so far?

"Project processes run more smoothly, reporting is easier, and we have a completely new overview and control over projects," says Bent Gabrielsen. "I believe that we will achieve our goals, but more importantly, we have already achieved reliability and now know that we can deliver with quality on time and within budget."

Further information, e-mail to info@ifsworld.com, contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, IFSworld.com

