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concept to realisation



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"IRW were efficient and professional which enabled us to implement the solution with a minimum of disruption to staff and maximum benefit to the organisation."



Microsoft
BizTalk Server



t. 0141 889 3088 (North)
t. 0207 873 2268 (South)
Web. www.irw.co.uk
Email: enquiries@irw.co.uk

Howco Group—BizTalk Server

THE CUSTOMER: Howco Group Plc is one of the largest processors and distributors of speciality steels - the Group has become the leading provider in the bar and tubular alloy market and is globally positioned with distribution centres in the USA, Canada, UK, Norway and Singapore. Howco's aim is to provide highly competitive strategies for their customers by continually improving the business process and integrating systems and transactions between their suppliers and their customers.

Howco have a range of large customers, where links and interfaces between customer ERP and line of business systems, and Howco systems, are required and in place.

THE REQUIREMENT: Howco found that one of their key oil rig manufacturing customers was about to change the type and form of system interface at short notice.

The change was from EDI ERP transactions to SOAP ERP transactions, within a three week timeframe, which would have left them with no active orders coming through.

THE SOLUTION: Howco had already selected BizTalk for their preferred middleware as it matches with their .NET Platform Strategy they then chose IRW as their BizTalk partner.

One of the roles that IRW played was to advise about which installation dependencies were needed. IRW then undertook the installation on-site. Working with both Howco's client and their inventory system supplier, IRW then went on to develop BizTalk processing for the new incoming messages from the oil rig manufacturer.

These were in the defined RosettaNet PIDX SOAP format. BizTalk was then used to generate the out-going messages to mirror the original messages received by the AS400 based inventory and order system over MQSeries Queue.

The new Biztalk middleware was created and implemented to meet the timeframe of the client, and the related technical needs.

BUSINESS BENEFITS:

- Achievement of the solution, within timescale and budget
- By replicating the original output expected by the inventory system, it reduced the amount of development time in light of the tight delivery timescale and reduced the amount of expensive support work needed by the inventory system supplier
- Ensures that new/changed ERP transactions for the same Client can be easily and quickly implemented
- Allows handling ERP transactions from other clients
- Provides a solid foundation for the Group's planned Service Oriented Architecture
- Offers the business data synchronisation opportunities between existing systems