

Proc case helps Hatch “C.A.R.E.” for Union Gas

Hatch Associates (now The Hatch Group)

Client since July 1994

Location: Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Industry: Utilities/Energy



Client Overview

Hatch is a leading Canadian engineering services company, providing process and detail engineering, technologies, business consulting and project and construction management services to the Mining & Metals, Energy and Infrastructure sectors. Although primarily an engineering company, Hatch's Systems Group provides IT services to its customers, and Union Gas was one of its first large scale implementations.

Client Objectives

In 1994, Hatch's Systems Group was retained by Union Gas to design and implement a new gas logistics management system. Union Gas is a major energy company operating an integrated gas transmission, storage and distribution network in Canada and the US. Union's business activities include moving and tracking its own gas on pipelines throughout North America. The natural gas industry had recently experienced major changes in its business environment due to industry deregulation. The newly competitive environment produced more complex pipeline services and they were becoming increasingly difficult to administer.

To meet these challenges, a robust IT solution would have to handle major functions such as Classification, Allocation, Reporting and Exchange of gas information – and the Gas C.A.R.E. system was born. The integrated system would validate customer orders, manage upstream supply and transportation logistics, schedule operations, reconcile accounting transactions, forecast inventory balances and prepare information for customer invoicing.

Proc case Contribution

Hatch's Systems Group at the time lacked Oracle expertise and engaged Proc case to provide the missing database design and programming skills. This was the first time that two of the current Proc case managing partners worked together – Lev Molyaner was the technical lead for all back end Oracle functionality while Andrew Okimi led the front end Powerbuilder development effort. Together, the extremely complex business requirements were analyzed, understood, and then implemented. The system was a huge success, providing all the functionality, information access and control, and reporting that was needed, and more. The system surpassed all expectations in terms of its flexibility and ability to assimilate new types of business transactions, to allow automated electronic information exchange, and the Internet.

Technology

This client/server system was built on IBM AIX servers, using Oracle database and Powerbuilder clients.

Results

Proc case technical and systems expertise was a major factor in the success of this significant client/server business system. Proc case demonstrated not only substantial technical prowess, but also showed exceptional capability for business process re-engineering, to translate complex business requirements into an actual system.