

UK based Rail Company - Design Solution

The Challenge

Maintenance of Switches and Crossings is one of the crucial Businesses of a large UK based Rail company. Along with a number of business drivers, reduction in the operating cost base over a period of 5 years is one of the crucial targets for Rail company.

Design of Switches and Crossings is crucial for maintenance. Rail Company had custom built standalone software used for this purpose. Some of the limitations of the existing software were:

- Not accessible across the Network
- Not Integrated with Oracle eBusiness Suite
- Data transfer between systems - Manual

The design solution had to be integrated with Oracle eBusiness Suite

The Solution

The existing system was used by a number of track engineers. The following features were 'key' for the acceptance of the solution.

- The look and feel of new system should be as close as possible with existing System
- Should be integrated with Oracle eBusiness Suite
- The solution should have the provision for design of Complex Sketches
- Ability to Track Inventory stocks and Calculate prices, based on Bill of Material
- Seamless integration with eBusiness modules
- Ability to retrieve history information & export results to XL
- Ability to Print Reports

Taking all the above features into consideration, a solution was proposed using the following Oracle eBusiness modules:

- Oracle Inventory

- Oracle Bill of Material
- Oracle Configurator

A new Custom UI was also developed to enable the users to design complex sketches and place on-line orders.

The Benefits

All the problems which were faced by Rail company were addressed with the new solution. Some of the benefits include:

- The Solution was an integrated solution, accessible across the Network
- It was a part of eBusiness Suite
- All the processes which were performed manually were automated. Some of them include:
 - Technical & Financial Approvals (Oracle Workflow)
 - Place Purchase Requisitions (iProcurement)
 - Automated Payment Process
 - Automated allocation of costs to cost centres (Financials)
 - Automated Financial Postings (General Ledger)
 - Access to Suppliers (iSupplier Portal)
- Total Design to Deliver process was automated
- Powerful Search Engine developed (Advanced Search tool developed using OA Framework)

With the success of the solution deployed for one department, more departments are being added to use the product for procurement of maintenance material.