

Defensie



Informatica Optimizes Materials Management and Logistics in Support of Peacekeeping Operations

Dutch armed forces saves \$65 million annually and maximizes Return on Data by migrating 50 applications to SAP.

FAST FACTS

BUSINESS INITIATIVES

- Improve governance, reduce risk, and support compliance
- Increase efficiency and reduce defense costs
- Ensure faster delivery of high quality data to enhance decision making

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Deployed the Informatica Platform and the Informatica Velocity methodology to migrate 50 legacy defense systems to SAP, including data analysis and data quality

The Netherlands Ministry of Defense (MoD) is fighting against years of legacy application management with a large-scale migration to a single enterprise resource planning (ERP) system covering all the armed forces. In one of Europe's largest-ever public sector data migration projects, the Informatica® Platform has been deployed to increase the value of its data by cleansing and migrating data from 50 aging and expensive materials management and logistics legacy systems used by the four major defense organizations—army, air force, navy, and military police—into SAP.

The Informatica Platform will enable standardized processes across the armed forces, thereby improving the efficiency of material logistics, financial processes, and organization. At a time when every cent counts in defense spending, the data migration program will also reduce the cost of data: the data migration and subsequent legacy application retirement will save the MoD \$65 million annually in technology maintenance and support costs alone. By squeezing the maximum value from its data and decreasing the cost of that data, the Netherlands MoD is winning a strong Return on Data.

Maintaining Security in the Netherlands

The MoD is one of the Netherlands' largest employers, with more than 60,000 civilian and military employees. It consists of the administrative staff, the navy, the army, the air force, the military police, the Defense Support Command, and the Defense Material Organization. These are jointly responsible for maintaining peace and security in the Netherlands and for peacekeeping missions.

BENEFITS

- Transformed materials management and logistics of peacekeeping operations
- Saved \$65 million annually
- Standardized data migration methodology for greater efficiency
- Enhanced data quality
- Saved time as well as development and maintenance costs
- Improved relationship between business and IT

NUTS & BOLTS

- Solution: Legacy retirement and business intelligence
- Products: Informatica PowerCenter Advanced Edition™, Informatica Data Quality, Informatica Data Explorer™
- Services: Informatica Professional Services, Informatica Velocity Methodology and Informatica University
- Sources: 50 legacy IDMS, Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, and Access systems
- Target: SAP

The roots of the Ministry's large-scale data migration program lie in the accuracy of data provided in response to questions posed in parliament and various departments of the MoD. Whenever a question was raised about the capability of the country's land, sea, or air services, the minister responsible had several different answers to hand—but no way of determining which was the right answer. It then took an extremely long time, and a large amount of manual resources, to identify the correct answer.

These concerns about the accuracy of defense data and the need to transform decision making, coupled with the drive to reduce costs, led to the Strategic Process Enabled ERP Re-engineering (SPEER) program. SPEER aims to improve data sharing within and between the armed forces so that 12,000 MoD employees can work together in a standardized and effective manner (including 1200 SAP-users). As part of SPEER, 50 aging legacy systems related to materials management and logistics for the air force, army, and navy are being replaced by a single new system—SAP. Standardized processes across the air force, navy, and ground forces among others will ultimately improve the efficiency of material logistics, financial processes, and organization. SPEER is among the largest data migrations ever conducted in the Europe's public sector.

Only Trusted, Reliable Data Wanted in SAP

However, concerns about the quality of the data residing in the 50 legacy systems remained, and there was no point integrating this data into SAP unless it was cleansed beforehand. Bert Braanker, head of data management in Material Logistics, Ministry of Defense, explains, "Simply transferring data from one application to another was not enough. Before we could switch the data to SAP, we needed to be clear where the differences lay, what data was missing, and what data was duplicated on the system."

Following an extensive European tender process, the MoD chose the Informatica Platform to cleanse and integrate data from the different forces' systems into SAP. Designed to promote standardization and reuse, the Informatica Platform encompasses a range of flexible technologies that work together across the MoD to turn data into trustworthy, actionable, and authoritative information assets. Informatica Data Quality™ is used at the outset to analyze, cleanse, and standardize the legacy system data before it is integrated into SAP using Informatica PowerCenter®.

Informatica Data Quality has automated the development and management of more than 280 data quality business rules and a series of scorecards that are suitable for the MoD data. This enables Braanker and his team to classify the areas of data quality concern, develop a prioritized list of areas that need attention, and ensure only authoritative and trustworthy data is integrated into SAP. After these quality enhancements, the data is transferred using transformation and conversion rules to a staging environment, where it complies with SAP requirements in terms of such issues as data field lengths and the use of prescribed units. Finally, it is migrated to SAP.

Approximately half of the MoD's systems have now been migrated to SAP. In the air force, for example, clean, accurate, and trusted data relating to weapons, the NH90 NATO frigate helicopter, and transport aircraft has already been migrated, enabling the defense ministry to improve the planning, maintenance, and ordnance logistics of these airborne forces. Similarly, in the navy, weapons systems, small vessels, and supplies inventory systems have all been migrated. And maintenance services and supplies used by the ground forces are all now available in the unified SAP environment.

Improving Peacekeeping Operations

The integrated environment is transforming the materials management and logistics of peacekeeping operations. When a new maintenance contract begins for the NH90 helicopter, for instance, everything associated with the maintenance of that weapons platform over its lifetime is available in the shared SAP environment, including parts inventory, servicing, contracts, and maintenance. Also, when new recruits join the army, the Ministry has a shared view of their army profile, including their salary, the equipment assigned to them, their role, and other attributes.

Braanker comments, "There's no dispute: the Informatica Platform is helping the Netherlands Ministry of Defense maximize its Return on Data. We estimate that by cleansing and integrating all the defense logistics data into SAP, the Ministry is saving \$65 million annually in technology alone. These savings are derived mainly from the reduced management, support, and maintenance of legacy systems."

The Netherlands MoD has been working alongside Informatica Professional ServicesSM to deploy SPEER. A team from Informatica used the Informatica VelocitySM implementation methodology to introduce enterprise strategy best practices, including an Integration Competency Center, project-level best practices for enterprise data integration and management, and a comprehensive set of practical tools, including resource materials and templates. Among a multitude of tasks, Informatica Professional Services set up the data migration road map, introduced standards and working procedures, mapped out procedures for SAP connectivity, and provided support in system test and preproduction.

"We could not have achieved this project outcome without the expert help of Informatica Professional Services and the excellent training services from Informatica University," says Braanker. "Business and IT now have joint responsibility for project outcomes, and they are reading from the same page. People are willing to step beyond their usual boundaries and share responsibility for the end result."

About Informatica

Informatica Corporation (NASDAQ: INFA) is the world's number one independent provider of data integration software. Organizations around the world rely on Informatica to gain a competitive advantage with timely, relevant and trustworthy data for their top business imperatives. Worldwide, over 4,630 enterprises depend on Informatica for data integration, data quality and big data solutions to access, integrate and trust their information assets residing on premise and in the Cloud. For more information, call +1 650-385-5000 (1-800-653-3871 in the U.S.), or visit www.informatica.com.



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