PRESS RELEASE

Software AG Harmonizes Data Transfer in Lidl's Application System Landscape

Data exchange around the world in just about real time thanks to an integration platform for Lidl's electronic retail information system

Darmstadt/Germany, July 19, 2016   One of Europe's biggest discount grocery chains, Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG, uses Software AG's webMethods Integration Platform and Enterprise Service Bus to harmonize the exchange of data between its store and national systems and its central retail information system. As part of the corporation's switch to the new electronic Lidl Retail Information System eLWIS (SAP) the integration platform has enabled fast and smooth integration of existing systems.

Lidl's previous integration scenario had reached its limits with regard to meeting future requirements and further development. The project proved to be very challenging. The new solution would have to integrate many different systems, which, until that point had communicated via point-to-point connectivity. The international rollout of the planned 10,000 installations required meticulous coordination.

With this move, Lidl's demonstrates a clear focus on transitioning from decentralized data exchange at store and country level to centralized total connectivity and just about real-time exchange. Lidl operates in 29 countries, 27 of those in Europe, with about 10,000 stores. They all send their data to its central data warehouse located in Neckarsulm, Germany. The objective was to develop an extremely slim and flexible platform for use at the company's main IT center and local warehouses and stores which would standardize data exchange between all systems as well as with the SAP platform. Lidl has already been able to reuse the integration platform in other projects and countries.

Enhanced Flexibility Enables Real-Time Analysis

René Sandführ, Executive Vice President IT ERP Systems at Lidl, stated, "Thanks to the flexibility of webMethods, we have been able to integrate more than 30 systems from Lidl's existing infrastructure into our new retail information system." Connectivity between all stores and the central information system will enable Lidl to access inventory levels in real time.

Oliver Albig, Business Area Head of System Integration at Lidl, adds, "Due to the comprehensive expertise of Software AG's consultants—including industry-specific knowledge—we were always confident that Software AG was very well equipped to address our specific needs."

Alexander Sonnenmoser, Divisional Board Member for Business Technology at Lidl, emphasizes, "A modern and flexible global systems and application landscape is becoming an ever greater key success factor in business today. This new solution provides the technical framework to drive Lidl's IT landscape transformation. Our IT specialists and consultants support and advise Lidl in global innovative projects. Thanks to their high level of dedication and technical expertise, they are playing a key role in the implementation of a future-proof IT strategy."

Lidl's IT division plans to continue its successful partnership and collaboration with Software AG.

About Software AG

The digital transformation is changing enterprise IT landscapes from inflexible application silos to modern software platform-driven IT architectures which deliver the openness, speed and agility needed to enable the digital real-time enterprise.

Software AG offers the first end-to-end Digital Business Platform, based on open standards, with integration, process management, in-memory data, adaptive application development, real-time analytics and enterprise architecture management as core building blocks. The modular platform allows users to develop the next generation of application systems to build their digital future, today.

With over 45 years of customer-centric innovation, Software AG is ranked as a leader in many innovative and digital technology categories. Software AG has more than 4,300 employees, is active in 70 countries and had revenues of €873 million in 2015.

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