



# Centralized controlling and reporting platform with Pentaho



# Automotive supplier chooses Pentaho

BOS is an international company with locations in Europe, North America and Asia. The company has been developing and manufacturing components such as roof and baggage systems for the automotive industry for more than 100 years. BOS stands for 100 years of innovation and continuous improvements, which is also true for their IT department.

## Requirements

BOS maintains production sites on three continents. Every location has its own solution in place for monitoring and managing projects with suppliers from all over the world. In most cases, these are software applications they have developed themselves. Without a central management accounting solution, projects and supplier details were sent to the German headquarters by means of Excel sheets. This brought with it the usual problems – data fragmentation and a proneness to error. Preparing reports and other forms of visualizations was both cumbersome and time-consuming since these had to be implemented directly in Java.

Thus, it was no surprise that the demand for a standardized reporting solution with visualization capabilities grew louder and louder. BOS began searching for a solution with which data could be analyzed and processed centrally without too much programming effort. It should also be easily integratable with the location's own in-house developments.

As a highly innovative and dynamic company, BOS relies on integrated business processes. The company therefore opted for the Pentaho BI suite. Not only is it characterized by a wide range of enterprise features and a high degree of flexibility, the software also easily integrates with existing IT environments through its many interfaces. it-novum, as a Pentaho Enterprise Partner with extensive experience implementing the suite in both midsize and large companies, was an easy choice for BOS. Another point in favor of the SAP and Open Source specialist was its broad portfolio of open source business solutions.



**” Mr. Schablack says:** We chose Pentaho because it focuses on high-end business intelligence solutions. it-novum was the perfect partner for us because in addition to their expertise in the area of business open source they also have extensive experience implementing complex enterprise-level projects.



## Three solutions, one platform

it-novum developed a Pentaho based centralized management accounting and reporting platform for BOS, consisting of three components: a project cockpit for project-related data, an operations cockpit with over 30 metrics and a system for supplier evaluations and reports.

## The Project Cockpit: A centralized view of project data

The project cockpit allows for a centralized view of all the data concerning BOS' individual products. From a technical point of view this cockpit includes the data integration and reporting components of Pentaho. In order to integrate the company's different data sources, their project database, SAP and Excel sheets, it-novum set up a data warehouse. Data from BOS' various locations is loaded into the data warehouse, using ETL processes to aggregate it in a consolidated data model.

This then serves as the basis for a cockpit for the respective project managers, which enables them to view and access all relevant project information, such as contacts, budgets, project and product costs, project phases and pictures of products in development.

## Supplier evaluations for the purchasing department

BOS evaluates their suppliers on a regular basis. To this end, it-novum developed a central overview of all reviews with full reporting functionality. Whenever a location evaluates a supplier, the employees enter the data into an Excel spreadsheet, which is then loaded via ETL into the central database. From this aggregated information, reviews are generated. These are an important decision-making tool for the purchasing department.

The suppliers are informed about the results of the assessment through an automated e-mail system. The content depends on the supplier's classification (A, B or C category) and can be either in German or English, depending on the country of origin (Hungarian and Chinese versions are in the planning stages).

## Operations Cockpit

Machine utilization, staff size, complaint numbers: With business locations on three continents, having access to a central view of the state of production is absolutely essential. it-novum developed an operations cockpit which aggregates approximately 30 key business metrics from the various factories. The factories send their data in the form of Excel worksheets to the German headquarters, where it is loaded into the data warehouse so that it becomes available for reports and analyses.

## Partnership in Implementation

In this project it-novum and BOS worked closely together. The project started with an initial planning phase, after which it-novum installed the Pentaho software, adapting it to the requirements specified in the planning stage. The actual application development was done together with BOS. This gave the client an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the structure and the basic components of the solution during the implementation phase. It means that BOS IT personnel now has extensive knowledge of Pentaho. At the same time, it-novum was always there as a reliable implementation and development partner. In order to ensure that the solution could be used in a profitable way from the outset, BOS asked it-novum to train all users in the proper way to use the software.

## Conclusion

After the first few months with Pentaho BOS is very happy with the solution. “it-novum was exactly the right implementation partner for us”, says Schablack. The solution was developed in close co-operation and it provides exactly what we want: A powerful enterprise platform for evaluating and preparing data from our locations around the world.



**” Mr. Schablack says:** We therefore feel that it-novum is also a good fit for our other projects concerning ECM and systems management. We are even thinking about integrating SAP.



The new BI solution, with its data integration processes and dashboards, enables BOS to quickly analyze and prepare data for good looking reports, charts and evaluations. Pentaho’s open architecture made it easy to integrate the system with existing infrastructure at BOS as well as with third-party applications. BOS is thus extremely satisfied with the new solution, which offers solid added value for their business.

## Leading in Business Open Source solutions and consulting

it-novum is the leading IT consultancy for Business Open Source in the German-speaking market. Founded in 2001 it-novum today is a subsidiary of the publicly-held KAP Beteiligungs-AG.

We operate with 85 employees from our main office in Fulda and branch offices in Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Vienna and Zurich to serve large SME enterprises as well as big companies in the German-speaking markets.

it-novum is a certified SAP Business Partner and longtime accredited partner of a wide range of Open Source products. We mainly focus on the integration of Open Source with Closed Source and the development of combined Open Source solutions and platforms.

Due to the ISO 9001 certification it-novum belongs to one of the few Open Source specialists who can prove the business suitability of their solutions, proven by international quality standards.



## More than 15 years of Open Source project experience

- Our portfolio contains a wide range of Open Source solutions within the applications and infrastructure area as well as own product developments which are well-established in the market.
- As an IT consulting company with a profound technical know-how within the Business Open Source area we differentiate ourselves from the big solution providers' standard offerings. Because our solutions are not only scalable and flexible but also integrate seamlessly in your existing IT infrastructure.
- We can assemble multidisciplinary project teams, consisting of engineers, consultants and business data processing specialists. Thus we combine business know-how with technological excellence to build sustainable business processes.
- Our target is to provide you with a high-quality level of consulting during all project phases – from the analysis and conception up to the implementation and support.
- As a decision-making basis prior to the project's start we offer you a Proof-of-Concept. Through a real-case simulation and a developed prototype you can decide on a new software without taking any risks. Moreover, you benefit from:
  - Security and predictability
  - Clear project methodology
  - Sensible calculation



### Your contact person for Business Intelligence and Big Data:

#### Stefan Müller

Director Big Data Analytics

✉ [stefan.mueller@it-novum.com](mailto:stefan.mueller@it-novum.com)

☎ +49 (0) 661 103 942

#### it-novum GmbH Germany

Headquarters Fulda: Edelzeller Straße 44 · 36043 Fulda  
Phone: +49 (0) 661 103-333  
Branches in Dusseldorf & Dortmund

#### it-novum branch Austria

Ausstellungsstraße 50 / Zugang C · 1020 Vienna  
Phone: +43 1 205 774 1041

#### it-novum branch Switzerland

Hotelstrasse 1 · 8058 Zurich  
Phone: +41 (0) 44 567 62 07