The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

YEAR:
2012

STATUS:
Laureate

Organization:
Gulf JP Company Ltd.

Organization URL:
www.gulf.co.th/gulfjp/EN/home/index.php

Project Name:
Gulf JP Company Ltd Supports Imperative Business Continuity

What social/humanitarian issue was the project designed to address? What specific metrics did you use to measure the project's success?

The power industry is one of the core sectors driving economic growth in Thailand, where energy provider Gulf JP Company is located. Any minor power disruption would cause tremendous damage. However, the increasing number of power plants was putting a strain on the country's demand for energy. Businesses and consumers needed maximum performance and backup to support 24/7 electricity generation from Gulf JP, but with the current IT infrastructure, the company was not equipped to handle the demand. Therefore, Gulf JP required a backup plan, to ensure effective and reliable data backup, which, in turn, ensures business continuity in the area.

Please describe the technologies used and how those technologies were deployed in an innovative way. Also, please include any technical or other challenges that were overcome for the successful implementation of the project.

After comparing the product performance of various brands of storage, Gulf JP determined that Hitachi Data Systems offered the most ideal solution for its business. Hitachi technology would support its SAP enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, core storage system and data backup for disaster recovery in case central data become inactive. Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage (AMS) 2300 was selected for the ERP system to store core data at Gulf JP headquarters. AMS 2300 would perform functions, such as email and file sharing, and storage of engineering

data for all power plants. For its disaster recovery solution, Gulf JP employed AMS 2100. Hitachi software, including Hitachi TrueCopy Synchronous and Hitachi In-System Replication bundle1 replicate data from core data so the solution can immediately substitute the central data in case of any disasters. Hitachi Data Systems is the only provider using innovative SAS technology, which delivers high performance, flexibility and scalability. Moreover, AMS systems are scalable and can be connected to offer performance that is equivalent to enterprise levels by simply upgrading the controller. The Gulf JP's core system and ERP system are effectively compatible with Hitachi technology. In addition, the Hitachi In-System Replication bundle provides an enterprise-level data cloning capability; this feature enables instant data access for the SAP testing environment.

Please list the specific humanitarian benefits the project has yielded so far.

Because of the growing number of power plants and Gulf JP's ability to meet the demand due to the updated IT infrastructure, Gulf JP has hired more than 400 employees, and that figure is expected to hit 1,000 in 2015, driving the local economies. Gulf JP has also inspired confidence in the local communities by providing them with maximum productivity while keeping an environmental conscience. Most importantly, Gulf JP's updated IT infrastructure ensures business continuity in the main industrial zones of Thailand, the areas most important to the country's economic development.

Please provide the best example of how the project has benefited a specific individual, enterprise or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work.

The entire population in the areas that Gulf JP serves has benefitted from this project. Not only has the ability to handle an increase in energy demand grown the company internally, leading to more jobs, but the businesses who depend on Gulf JP can also continue to grow, assured that their energy needs will be met.