

CASE STUDY

LIBERALISATION - THIRD PARTY ACCESS

European Gas Storage Company

The Business Challenge

Gas storage facilities throughout Europe are increasingly being used to exploit commercial market and trading opportunities in addition to their traditional roles of 'security of supply' and long-term storage. This underground gas storage company operating in the Central European region was newly opened for Third Party Access and about to be commercially unbundled from its integrated parent company.

The senior management of the new storage organisation required better understanding of the changed and new processes and functionality it would require to cope with third party nominations, allocations, etc. and to look at a business-to-business IT solution to remotely engage with and to manage new customers.

Approach

The assignment was achieved through an in-depth, facilitated workshop process that resulted in a focussed understanding of the new storage market opportunities and how storage fitted commercially into the new gas market, developed and changed business processes, and an agreed Functional Requirements Specification document for the new IT systems that would be required for multiple shipper access and management.

In addition, time was taken to explore what new services the storage company could provide to the wider gas market and how it might operate with developing trading hubs.

The Benefits

The gas storage company was greatly assisted with information and practical, operational process from an industry expert consultant, who had in-depth knowledge and experience of both required processes and available software for the liberalised market operation.

The workshops highlighted a number of previously un-considered areas and requirements, raised problems and resolved them. The functionality requirements evolving from these workshops allowed the preparation of a comprehensive Functional Specification Document to cover the major B2B business ICT system requirements.

The review and discussion of possible new storage services and how these might operate was considered a value-adding feature of this activity.

The storage company was extremely pleased with both the results and the consultant process, which allowed them to be fully involved throughout the process and reach their desired goal in a most cost effective manner.