

Client: Logistics firm engaged in Humanitarian Relief logistics
Location: USA

Client Description

The client is globally well known for its expertise in commercial logistics. Their aim is to strengthen the infrastructure of humanitarian relief organizations by mobilizing logistics and technology expertise and resources from the corporate and academic communities.

Business Need

There was no packaged software in the market that manages logistics for humanitarian organizations during disaster relief operations. The “Donor” element is a key requirement of such organizations, which brings in the element of accountability mandatory for relief organizations. The client wanted to fill this gap and build a humanitarian logistics system (HLS) that could be utilized by relief organizations such as IFRC. The client conceived the vision for this product and wanted to build the entire product in a short timeframe of 9 months.

Solution Offered

Blue Star Infotech’s (BSI’s) involvement in this product began right from the conceptualization phase.

The product had to be conceptualized and BSI carried out a functional area analysis utilizing subject matter experts from the logistics functional area.

The client had already decided on a web-based system and based on BSI’s recommendation, approved the use of .NET technology for the same.

Apart from the regular SDLC followed during the course of the project, three incremental deliveries were carried out. BSI was responsible for product architecture, component design, development, testing, deployment and post-release support.

Some of the salient features of the HLS include:

1. Web-based application based on Microsoft .NET technology
2. Global and timely accessibility of data and application
3. Standardized and automated processes
4. Centralized Information Storage and retrieval
5. Full cycle supply chain management from Source to Disaster area
6. More efficient and timely sourcing of relief material
7. Enhanced control and visibility of relief operations

6. Enhanced consolidation, reporting and intelligence capabilities that ensured all relief materials were tracked from source to distribution
7. Integrated with external support systems

The System is database Independent, ANSI SQL 92 compliant, supports Netscape 6.0 / IE 5.0 onwards. It is based on N-tier architecture, developed using C# technology based on .Net platform. Multi-lingual capabilities were inbuilt into the product.

TECHNOLOGY

- Windows 2000 Server
- IIS 5.0
- MS SQL Server 2000
- MS Biztalk Server 2000
- Dot Net Framework
- Languages: C#, XML.
- Web: ASP.Net, HTML, DHTML, and JavaScript
- Development Tools: Visual Studio.Net, Visio

Benefits to the Client

- The release commitments were largely met due to BSI’s tailored and tool-based approach to developing and testing the product. The offshore team was scaled up in a short duration to ensure that the timelines were adhered to.
- BSI delivered an end-user training program at the beneficiary’ location and supported the users with adequate documentation on the product and its use. This resulted in a smooth implementation and ensured that the product was fit to use
- This product is intended to be used as a standard for humanitarian relief organizations worldwide and will be provided through an ASP platform to distribute costs across the organizations and to enable the offline use of the features through HAM, media devices and satellite phones.
- This product was nominated for the Affymetrix Health Award by The Tech Museum, CA and also for other industry recognition awards.

For more information about Blue Star Infotech:

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