

Making use of synergies

Standardized company software produces significant cost savings for employers' liability insurance associations

With "Phoenix", a major joint project involving several service providers, a flexible company software was created, unifying different departments of the employers' liability insurance associations "Berufsgenossenschaft der Bauwirtschaft" (BG BAU) and "Berufsgenossenschaft Nahrungsmittel und Gaststätten" (BGN). As one of the service providers, msg systems ag participated in various development stages of this major project; in December 2005, it also took over complete responsibility for the project management. The "Phoenix" software solution was rolled out at the regional administrative office in Böblingen in November 2006; as from now, it will be gradually introduced at BGN and in other regional administrative offices of BG BAU.

The employers' liability insurance associations are the legal casualty insurers for the trades to which they are assigned. Like health and pension insurance, they therefore represent an important pillar of the German social insurance system. Central tasks are the improvement of occupational safety and health and the provision of payments in case of an occupational accident or illness.

The BGN is the employers' liability insurance association for companies manufacturing food products and those involved in gastronomy. BG BAU is responsible for the building industry and associated services in Germany. It was founded in 2005 as the result of a merger of seven previously separately-operated regional employers' liability insurance associations in the building industry and the Tiefbau-Berufsgenossenschaft (TBG). Each of these employers' liability insurance associations previously had its own software, and operated its own data center – with correspondingly high costs and resource requirements. Thanks to the development of a standardized software



solution and the foundation of the central IT service provider BG-PHOENICS in August 2000, these costs can now be reduced significantly – a critical success factor especially in the face of the current crisis in the building industry. In the long term, entrepreneurs who pay their accident insurance contributions to the employers' liability insurance associations in the course of the so-called allocation process will also benefit from this, for the cost reductions achieved can be used to stabilize contributions.

Integrated business processes

After the final rollout, 5,500 employees from nearly all departments of the participating employers' liability insurance associations will constantly work with the Phoenix software which then entirely replaces the former heterogeneous solutions used by BG BAU and BGN. Phoenix covers all the departments, from benefits to membership and contribution management and parts of prevention (occupational physicians' service and technical surveillance service) on through to the pre-bookkeeping systems within finance. In addition, this solution which is based on a J2EE architecture is closely interlocked with a document management and workflow system, and it offers open interfaces for the incorporation of third-party systems. The comprehensive Phoenix software system ensures that business processes in the involved employers' liability insurance associations can be standardized and are consequently made more efficient. In addition, operation and maintenance of the software will be much easier: instead of the previous nine data centers, only two are necessary at present which shortly will be reduced to one single data center.



Burkhard Wolf
CEO, BG-PHOENICS GMBH

“With Phoenix we can achieve significant synergy and optimization effects for the employers' liability insurance associations. In addition, the software simplifies the integration of the administrative offices and the branch offices,” summarizes Burkhard Wolf, CEO of BG-PHOENICS GmbH. “In the end, they are all carrying on the same businesses, just in different industries and in different locations. Therefore, the standardized Phoenix solution which can be used equally by all officials, administered centrally, and expanded flexibly, is the logical decision. To my mind, anything else would just not be up-to-date.”