

NASA

Creating a Universal Procurement System

Overview

Description

- ✓ An Extranet-enabled site where vendors can submit pricing proposals and NASA staff can research these bids and place orders

Software

- ✓ Prolifics Panther

Benefits

- ✓ Dramatically decreases the time and effort involved in the procurement process for client and vendors
- ✓ Web-based system allows over 100,000 users to do business in a centralized environment

Client Background

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration serves and inspires us by developing explorations that advance our knowledge of the Earth, the Solar System, and the Universe. NASA is also an organization whose budget is paid by U.S. tax dollars, so its procurement process is a sensitive issue that must meet the most rigorous standards of impartiality and accountability.



Business Problem

The process of soliciting and tracking bids for NASA's many unique needs was complex. It was difficult for potential vendors to gather all the appropriate information for an accurate bid; difficult for NASA project managers to gain competitive bids in a timely manner; difficult for NASA administrative personnel to make sure that budgetary constraints were properly met. Realizing that the Internet was a viable arena for gaining greater control over these business transactions, the Kennedy Space Center Directorate for Information Technology turned to Prolifics. The goal: to create a system that allows vendors to submit pricing proposals, and lets interested parties at NASA research bids and place orders directly to the vendors of their choice.

Solution

The development team at NASA's KSC Office of Procurement used Prolifics technology to build their Extranet-enabled order entry and tracking procurement system, accessing information from an Informix database. The cross-platform capabilities permitted deployment on a wide variety of operating systems, from PC to mainframe. The Web architecture allowed for expansion of the NASA vendor base by opening the system to more than 100,000 users worldwide. The result is a centralized, user-friendly environment where NASA workers can submit requests directly to vendors, and vendors can clearly advertise and update their services. The system lets all parties conduct business with a clearer focus, which makes it easier for NASA to reach into the cosmos without overreaching its budget.

About Prolifics, a SemanticSpace Company

Prolifics is the largest systems integrator specializing in IBM technologies. Having garnered awards for its solutions and technical excellence across IBM's entire software portfolio, Prolifics provides expert services including architectural advisement, design, development and deployment of end-to-end SOA, Portal and Security solutions. SemanticSpace, Prolifics' parent company, is a global IT services firm providing application development, testing, application maintenance and outsourcing services. Bringing over 30 years of experience and a strong global presence across the US, Europe and Asia, the SemanticSpace companies offer clients end-to-end services combined with the market's most seasoned and skilled consultants and the dedicated care and attention that comes from a highly-specialized, boutique company. By combining application frameworks, prebuilt components, custom development expertise, a governance framework and a blended shore model, we help organizations decrease risk in complex software development and deployment investments, improve time to market and increase success of business strategy execution.



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