

SETTING THE STANDARD IN THE GLOBAL STEEL BUSINESS

Challenge

Traditionally, steel suppliers and buyers used point-to-point Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) communication technology to conduct business. Because each EDI messaging link needs to be implemented as a specific project between two individual parties, this resulted in high costs for deployment. STEEL24-7 needed an integration solution that would enable them to orchestrate the complex buyer/supplier business processes as well as offering message translation. The solution would need to facilitate B2B integration, supply chain and transaction services for both buyers and suppliers.

Solution

The webMethods integration platform was selected as the basis for buyer and supplier services. Leveraging the webMethods integration platform and its out-of-the-box support for ebXML, STEEL24-7 now provides buyers and suppliers with an open, standards-based architecture for automating the supply chain.

Benefits

STEEL24-7 members have the opportunity to connect with all participants within the community through a single link to a neutral hub. Compared to the previous point-to-point EDI approach, this greatly reduces the total number of connections needed as well as the deployment cost and time.

 STEEL24-7

Three world leaders in steel, Arcelor, Corus and ThyssenKrupp Steel, took on the challenge in the year 2000 to create an e-business service provider for the steel industry called STEEL24-7. The company's mission is to leverage the commercial relationships between steel buyers and suppliers through the integration of business processes across the boundaries of existing companies. STEEL24-7 establishes a strong link between old and new economies and between steel buyers and suppliers.

Get there faster.™

“The webMethods integration platform and “out of the box” ebXML modules allow us to deploy our messaging service quickly with the knowledge that the **technical and security aspects are assured. We are therefore able to focus on supporting the business processes of our members.”**

Paul Gourlet | Chief Technology Officer | STEEL24-7

One-stop shopping platform

STEEL24-7 is an open and neutral company serving the steel community with high value-added services online. STEEL24-7 enables the integration of buyers, procurement and suppliers' back-end systems. The company offers its customers a one-stop shop platform with a common standard for all operations from inquiry to fulfillment. STEEL24-7 provides state-of-the-art e-business technology ensuring excellent performance and total security of commercial data. It offers unrivaled availability and covers a wide range of steel products and services, providing access to sales, production facilities and distribution across the globe.

Unique messaging hub connects the community

STEEL24-7 is a unique messaging hub that offers its members the opportunity to connect with all counterparts within the community through one single link.

Acting as a hub between suppliers and buyers, STEEL24-7 wanted to support communication between business partners using different messaging standards and formats. In particular, STEEL24-7 had the vision to offer translation services between EDI and XML messages, thereby leveraging existing investments. STEEL24-7 intends to use an industry eStandard such as RosettaNet or ebXML to be as open as possible for current and future participants.

With Release 2.0 of the STEEL24-7 platform the webMethods integration platform is now used as the basis for buyer and supplier services. Leveraging the webMethods integration platform and its out-of-the-box support for ebXML, STEEL24-7 now provides buyers and suppliers with an open, standards-based architecture for automating the supply chain.

STEEL24-7 uses the data transformation and mapping capabilities of the webMethods Integration Platform to accomplish such things as mapping SAP to other back-office applications that are used by the hub's participants. A STEEL24-7 partner connection package is offered to allow rapid and efficient connection of new partners and implementation of new messages. The STEEL24-7 hub is based on the webMethods Trading Networks solution and the webMethods ebXML module which supports standard ebXML messaging via protocols such as FTP, SMTP and HTTP.

Paul Gourlet, Chief Technology Officer, explains: “We will add support for future versions of ebXML and plan to enhance our EDI work, especially with regard to EDIFACT support. Obviously, we will continue to use the webMethods integration platform to support our evolving Web application, and direct messaging.”

The webMethods technology implemented by STEEL24-7 supports the STEEL24-7 vision of becoming the premier global communications hub for the steel industry.

KEY COMPONENTS

Integration Server & Trading Networks

Using the webMethods Integration Server and Trading Networks enables STEEL24-7 to provide standardized integration capabilities and improved business services for steel buyers and their suppliers.

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Our industry-leading product portfolio includes best-in-class solutions for managing data, enabling service-oriented architecture, and improving business processes. By combining proven technology with industry expertise and best practices, our customers improve and differentiate their businesses – faster.

Software AG – Get There Faster

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