



B & M upgrades hardware and software for z/OS operating system for major energy company

B & M was charged with managing the transfer of a major energy company's z/OS platform to a current version of the hardware and software to reduce costs and ensure support.

The system was upgraded from z/OS 1.7 to z/OS 1.9 and 1.10 to improve reliability, availability and serviceability of the mainframe platform.

The project has delivered cost reductions of around £1m, plus a reduction of around 10% in running costs.

Project Objectives

- To deliver immediate cost savings and reduce monthly operating costs for hardware and software platform
- To improve z/OS service reliability, availability and serviceability
- To improve security of service
- To ensure that the software platform was current and could be fully supported
- To deliver an environment where there would be no unscheduled outages for mainframe services.

Project Tasks

- Applying compatibility fixes to current software to support the new z/OS hardware platform
- Ordering and installing z/OS 1.9 and 1.10 on the test system
- Installing the new hardware platform
- Migrating services to the new platform and safely de-install the old system
- Applying compatibility fixes to current software to support the new software
- Deploying z/OS 1.10 software
- Registering the new platform for Workload License Charging (rather than processor power based charging) to reduce licence costs.

B & M Europe Ltd
Whitehouse Farm
Silchester Road
TADLEY
RG26 3PY
UK
+44 (0) 118 981 1880
www.bmeurope.com

B & M Europe

B & M has specialised in delivering skilled ICT specialists to meet the needs of leading organisations throughout Europe since 1992. We focus exclusively on providing consultancy, technical services and support for z/OS, UNIX and Linux enterprise systems, including third-party systems software, open systems and networking connectivity. We add real value for HR and IT professionals by taking the time to understand their needs and applying best practice methods to deliver results.

Duration

This work was carried out over a period of one year.

Results

- One-off combined cost reductions of around £1m to run the hardware and software
- Ongoing cost savings in operating costs of approximately 10% per month
- Improved security by moving to a fully-supported software platform
- Improve functionality through access to new hardware features
- Improved availability with no unscheduled outages for mainframe services

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