The Specialists in Environmental Data Management

A Portrait of Consist ITU Environmental Software GmbH

By Isabel Vollmann

3 million documents with 9 million qualified electronic signatures from three or more different companies each – before a document even reaches the subsequent official handling process: With the Electronic Waste Records Procedure (eANV) for the first time a complex process chain with many participants and variable workflows was transferred to an electronic system and placed in routine operation throughout Germany. Consist ITU made a significant contribution to that success, and carries these experiences into other business areas such as transport, environmental and food control.

The eANV is justifiably referred to as a flagship e-government initiative. At this point, over 40,000 companies participate successfully in the Electronic Waste Records Procedure (eANV). On February 1, 2011, the last transitional period came to an end. Producers and transporters of hazardous waste too must now, like disposal companies have already had to do, electronically sign for an estimated 20 million transactions per year. Even the last skeptics should now be convinced that the eANV is working. On January 14, 2011, the authorities thus decided not to permit any more general exceptions. Current statistics from IKA (Information Coordination Office for Waste IT Systems) show that since the beginning of 2011, all appropriate records for the disposal of hazardous wastes have been handled electronically, and no longer on paper.

Consist ITU has contributed significantly to this success: They defined the central BMU interface (together with Secunet), further developed the ASYS waste monitoring system to produce the official eANV system, and created significant parts of the ZKS-Abfall system as a subcontractor of IBM. Consist ITU also offers Modawi, the leading eANV middleware system with more than 200 customers. Consist ITU cooperates with about 30 software partners.

eANV is just the beginning

The Federal Office for Goods Transport (BAG) already provides electronic access to data for truck road inspections in the ASYS official authority system, since drivers often now no longer have papers with them. Depending on the type of waste, hazardous material information must also be included, so it is a natural next step to consider extending the Electronic Waste Records Procedure into the area of hazardous goods. In many other areas the trend is also towards the digitalization of procedures that earlier were paper-based. Examples familiar from the private market include the electronic ID card and the electronic tax declaration. In the environmental area, there are

e.g. the German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) or registrations with the PRTR (the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register). With the Federal Government's XU-Betrieb plan, an XML repository for the structured reporting of nearly all environmentally-related data to authorities is to be created over the next year. As a modular middleware, Modawi is designed precisely for company-wide provision of such standards; eANV is just one application case – but it's surely the most complex. That means that Consist ITU is especially well suited for applying its know-how to these new topics.

Increasing need for consultancy

"In recent days, we have received more requests from companies who want to analyze whether they're well-positioned in terms of their IT processes. In addition to an analysis of the actual situation, we also consult on possible optimization for your processes", explains Karsten Evers, Senior Account Manager at Consist ITU. Through Modawi, Consist ITU has a variety of intensive contacts with consulting firms in the environmental sector. Together with these partner companies, Consist ITU offers IT consulting and services, e.g. implementations, for companies. "This lets us cover the entire spectrum of environmental media, and of course the processes as well, because it makes a difference whether the main purpose of a company e.g. in the disposal of waste or whether a production company has to analyze, evaluate, and report on its emissions," says Ute Müller, Managing Director of Consist ITU.

Recurring scandals such as those lately with animal food contaminations indicate that it is a matter of basic survival for companies to have information about the related areas of environmental protection, animal protection, consumer protection, and agriculture in focus.

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Technical Terms

ZKS-Abfall: Central Waste Coordination Office: Central software installation of the German federal states for the administration and forwarding of electronic documents.
BMU-interface: XML schemes for the electronic documents of the eANV from BMU (Federal Ministry for the Environment).
ASYS: Waste monitoring system: software used in all German federal states (German

Länder) for the monitoring of disposal of hazardous waste.
eANV: Electronic Waste Records Procedure; is based on the Ordinance on Waste Recovery and Disposal Records (Nachweisverordnung - NachwV) and obligates producers, transporters, disposal companies, as well as authorities to electronic handling of records documents using

qualified electronic signatures.
Modawi: Middleware for the eANV from Consist ITU
XUBetrieb: XML repository for "operational master and report data" in the environmental area as part of the Federal Government's XÖV project (XML in public administration)
PRTR stands for the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register.