



Camunda BPM at Deutsche Bahn

- Replacement of a document-based business process
- Automated procedure across company boundaries
- Significant reduction of processing times

The Background

Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) is one of the largest transport and logistics companies in the world. Its most important partner for ICT solutions is DB Systel. DB Systel employs 3,400 people who plan, develop and operate approximately 600 productive IT applications throughout the entire Deutsche Bahn group.

The central point of contact in all nature protection issues for Deutsche Bahn ignited the inception of the “specialized information system conservation and compensation” (FINK) in 2013. In order to account for the needs of many internal and external stakeholders, DB Systel consulted external experts. Berlin-based econauten, who specialize in requirements management in complex IT projects, began with the modeling of processes in BPMN 2.0.

The realization of the project with Camunda BPM, integration of the

portal solution Liferay and custom Java programming was taken on by the certified Camunda partner Ancud IT from Nuremberg.

The following interview was conducted with Henry Hübler, DB Systel project manager and Ingo Rau, CEO of econauten.

The Challenge

“The aim of the project was to regularly provide reports on compensation obligations to the federal railway authority and other national authorities via one central IT system. In the past, this document-heavy process was controlled manually. With FINK processing times should be shortened and a uniform group-wide approach, including compensation commitments, be established. The affected business processes exceed not only departmental boundaries, but involve employees of

various Deutsche Bahn subsidiaries as well as external consultants.

Initially characterized as an innovation project, the requirements steadily evolved during development. The team led by DB Systel, Ancud IT and econauten therefore opted for an agile approach. In Camunda we found a BPM engine that grows flexibly and can be easily customized by Java developers.”

Why Camunda BPM?

“Even prior to the selection of IT components, we already documented the existing business processes with BPMN 2.0. Hosted by econauten the notation was quickly understandable for departments without an IT background and, as such, facilitated the adjustment of process details for those responsible. The step towards executable process models was particularly easy with Camunda BPM because more than any

other Business Process Management System, Camunda BPM consistently works with BPMN 2.0.

Decisive for contracting Camunda was also the licensing model. Especially for small and medium-sized projects DB Systel is increasingly using Open Source. Not being dependent on a single vendor thanks to open source software was rated as an additional advantage.”

The Implementation

“Tackling an innovative IT project using an agile approach, with a technology

not yet established within the Deutsche Bahn group was not a given for DB Systel. The project could only succeed through the excellent cooperation of all partners involved. The fact that Camunda supported the team with difficult decisions and was a competent aid contributed significantly to the success of the project.”

The Impact

“During the pilot phase, we had already tested FINK with several thousand compensations and established the XML data exchange with the authorities.

The system is stable, making it ready for production. From 2016 onwards, it is the nationwide mandatory IT system of Deutsche Bahn for recording and documenting compensation obligations in nature conservation. Business departments are increasingly recognizing the potential of this flexible, process-based solution in their operations. With Camunda BPM at its core, FINK will therefore continue to grow in the coming years.”

Learn more

www.camunda.com