

# Camunda BPM at Deutsche Bahn

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Replacement of a document-based business process

Automated procedure across company boundaries

Significant reduction of processing times

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»The fact that Camunda supported the team with difficult decisions and was a competent aid contributed significantly to the success of the project.«

Henry Hübler, DB System  
Ingo Rau, econauten





The 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 the Deutsche Bahn started 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 problem*      **Problem prior to using Camunda BPM**

»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?*

#### **Selection of 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 to be dependent on a single vendor thanks to open-source software was rated as an additional advantage.«

### *The project*

#### **Project set up and challenges**

»To tackle an innovative IT project 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.«



### *Situation now*     **Results with Camunda BPM**

»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 conversion into regular operation. From 2016 onwards, it is the nationwide mandatory IT system of the Deutsche Bahn for recording and documenting of 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.«