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MVV Energie AG Group Headquarters Renovation

MVV Energie Group is the largest publicly listed municipal utility network in Germany

In February 2008, MVV Energie AG completed the 'revitalisation' of its head office building in Mannheim. The Group refurbished its administrative tower in order to meet the latest fire prevention and building codes and standards, and renovated its 'Neckarvorlandgebäude' building. The head office complex now boasts an impressive new conference centre and a state-of-the-art office layout with standardised workspaces. The project managers explored a number of new avenues, particularly in terms of energy-saving methods.

The revitalisation project, which was itself divided into seven sub-projects, presented a tough challenge for all concerned. Top priority was given to the 'construction' sub-project, which required a broad range of technical input in areas such as fire prevention and media technology. This complex task, which involved relocating the entire head office workforce, had to be managed within strict time and budget guidelines. The project team was also faced with the task of storing, managing and distributing the large number of plans, documents and other information.

Sword CTSpace provided support for MVV Energie AG throughout this project with the BuildOnline on-demand solution. BuildOnline was used primarily as a document management and communication system, and soon proved its worth. "The main benefit was the way it helped us to manage the huge numbers of plans. The application's facility for sending out plans automatically and the way it took care of version control also greatly reduced my workload," said Holger Flatau, MVV project manager and architect.

Together with a consultant from Sword CTSpace, the project team drew up a framework for document management and plan coding. They also drew up a plan for facility management, which would be useful later for the Speedikon FM system. This required an mandatory query to be added to new documents as they were being prepared, in order to simplify filtering of the data for the subsequent occupancy phase of the building. This data would be incorporated in Speedikon FM once the refurbishment measures were completed. "This capability was a decisive factor in our decision to use Sword CTSpace as a partner for this project," said Erwin Griesbaum, the MVV manager in charge of the alternative accommodation and relocation aspects of the project.

BuildOnline was not only used in the 'construction' sub-project; it also helped the project team and their subcontractors throughout the refurbishment process – from the initial planning, implementation and building work, through to the relocation of all staff.

Benefits

Quick and efficient management of project documentation

Manage immense volumes of documentation and correspondence

Reduce costs

Minimise errors and delays

Implement effective chains of communication

Encourage collaborative working

Mitigate risk and ensure regulatory compliance by maintaining a complete audit trail

Standardise best practice across projects

Improve visibility, control and problem diagnosis in the design and construction phases of the project

Leverage information from previous projects with archiving capabilities

"Given the huge quantity of data we had to deal with, we would almost certainly have lost control, Sword CTSpace definitely made a big difference to the success of the overall project."

Holger Flatau, Project Manager and Architect, MVV Energie AG

The internal audit department supervising the project team also gained significant benefits from BuildOnline. The department was involved in the project from the very beginning and was able to check the up-to-the-minute project status at any time. There was therefore no obligation to justify any particular job, and no tasks were duplicated, as the system provided an appropriate degree of transparency for authorised users.

“We encountered a certain amount of scepticism from our employees about the wisdom of introducing a new system. However, thanks to the intensive training from Sword CTSpace, and particularly to the audit trail, it was very easy to see who was using the system and who was not. We were thus able to easily highlight the areas where we needed to customise the system. Now that the project is complete, everyone is very pleased with BuildOnline and fully appreciates the value it adds to the system when used properly.” Holger Flatau, project manager and architect, MVV Energie AG.

BuildOnline provided MVV Energie AG with following benefits:

- Solution-oriented support for the entire project from Sword CTSpace
- Tremendous reduction in paperwork
- Excellent overview of the status of plans and documents
- Simplified collaboration with engineers and planners
- Quick and easy control of who did what and when
- Very good service from the easy-to-reach technical service support team
- Personal point of contact throughout the duration of the project
- Standardised data pool prevented misunderstandings between different members of the team

“At group headquarters in Mannheim, we are showing our other offices the way forward. Because the solutions from Sword



CTSpace simplified and organised our processes so effectively, it would make sense to use them at other sites as well.” Holger Flatau, project manager and architect, MVV Energie AG.

“The user is the key to the success of BuildOnline in practice. Any company that intends to deploy BuildOnline will maximise the benefits by first explaining to its employees the added value that the system will eventually provide.” Erwin Griesbaum, project manager of the ‘alternative accommodation’ sub-project at MVV Energie AG.

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