

## inubit communication solutions for the gas market

The trend for the gas market is obvious: in addition to the present requirements of a modern communication infrastructure the future communication between gas suppliers has to be carried out in legal regulations.

For many companies this means restructuring their IT-infrastructure, because the new huge emergence of messages can only be met with a consistent use of standards for the communication of data and an involved optimized automation of processes.

The need to comply with the legal requirements is also a chance to update own business processes in order to be competitive in the future deregulated energy market.

### Legal regulations of data communication in the gas market – the process of changing suppliers

Gas supplier and provider have to adjust their business processes to the effective legal requirements, soon.

The resolution BK7-06-067 of the Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA – Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunication, Post and Railway) envisions the adjustment of the supplier changing process for gas (GeLi Gas) until the 1st of August 2008. The new model for gas distribution systems access became already effective on 1st of October 2007.

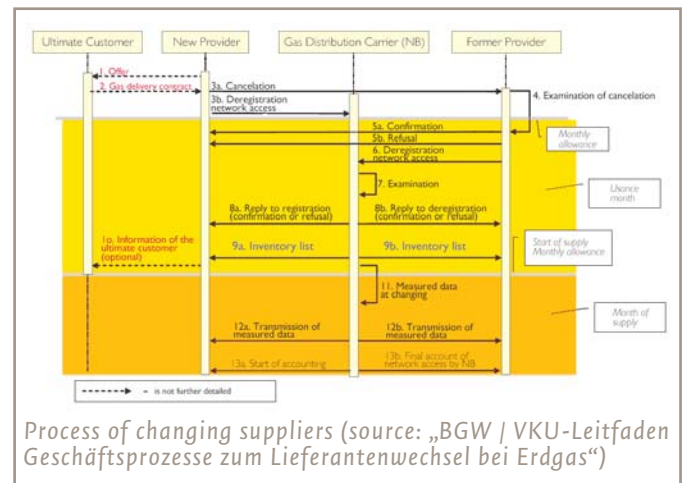
Based on comparative figures from the electricity market approximately 20 messages have to be exchanged during this process.

Regarding the changing rates of 15-40 percent from countries in which a deregulated market already exists, it is evident that the enlarged data volume will

cause an enormous administration effort if the process is not optimally automated.

When estimating what additional data volume implicates further typical processes like start / end of delivery, replacement supply / delivery, transmission of measured data, change of master data and business data requests – the need for automated processes is apparent.

To exploit this potential, standardized processes and messages are essential. In particular these are message formats like UTILMD, MSCONS, INVOIC, REM-



Process of changing suppliers (source: „BGW / VKU-Leitfaden Geschäftsprozesse zum Lieferantenwechsel bei Erdgas“)

ADV, REQDOC, CONTRL and APERAK whose application will be obligatory for companies in the gas market. To cope with the differences between the electricity and gas market code sets by EDIG@S-messages will be used.

### EDIG@S – it is not antiquated

Several years ago the gas industry created the EDIG@S standard to endeavour the automation of the data communication. This message format, prevailing in version 3.2, is based on the worldwide established UN/EDIFACT standard and meets the concerns of the gas industry specifications. Due to the exact defined structure and the close regulations of the contents EDIG@S is excellently applicable for the automated communication between partners in the gas market.

Due to these advantages inubit has developed one of the most efficient and flexible EDIG@S-solutions. The inubit solution contains EDIG@S in every version and will also support completely the, for this year announced, EDIG@S-version 4.0. Moreover the inubit solution offers the processing of further relevant message structures like Excel (KISS-A), XML and CSV as well as all communication protocols e.g. FTP, AS2, OFTP and X.400.

Next to numerous public services, power companies like **E.ON Ruhrgas AG** and **Wingas GmbH** focus on the inubit BPM-Suite.

Udo Witteck, project manager at E.ON Ruhrgas AG, is impressed of the fast implementation of all communication requirements: „With the inubit Suite a powerful EDI-tool – regarding functional range and scalability – is applied at E.ON Ruhrgas. No appreciable project-specific modifications had to be made. We are pleased having achieved this high project objective. For the future we hope to participate in the further development of the inubit Suite.“

## An integrated communication platform for legally compliant data interchange

To automate complex business processes in the gas market on the long run, inubit offers with the inubit BPM-Suite an integrated communication platform for exchanging all necessary business messages, incl. ready-made, preconfigured process templates.

In doing so all ways of communication (especially EDI/INTAS2, e-mail, FTP) and data formats (EDIG@S, EDIFACT, XML, Excel, CSV) externally as well as internally are supported.

Interfaces regarding internal applications have thereby a central importance because every automated communication only works if the data can be directly fed in from the backend systems into the processes.

But today most of the companies do not have implemented an integrated, homogeneous infrastructure. Many systems consist of single monolithic applications which are connected with proprietary interfaces. The result is the extensive maintenance of the interfaces as well as performance problems of the system landscape. Furthermore the system landscape possesses numerous widely spread log-files which prevents an accurate monitoring of the processes.

Moreover employees are hardly involved adequately in the process flow.

When facing the new regulatory challenges, which will have considerable consequences on the business processes, gas suppliers may use this opportunity to examine their processes thoroughly.

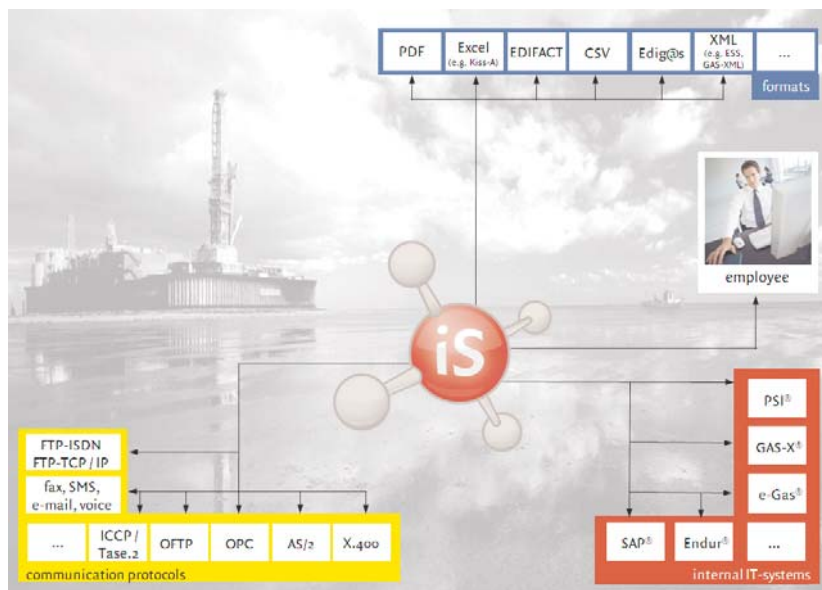
For this the actual processes can be defined in the inubit Suite, comprising the application-comprehensive data interchange, the involved employees as well as the communication with the business partners.

The technical implementation of this „Target-Process-Concept“ will be carried out via a completely graphical configuration in so called „Technical Workflows“, in which all industry-specific communication formats and protocols are available via standard modules and all relevant IT-systems can be integrated with the help of standard connectors „out-of-the-box“.

Thus, the inubit BPM-Suite simplifies the work of companies in the deregulated gas market noticeably and provides barrier-free business operations.

Thanks to the open, integrated and modern architecture, the inubit BPM-Suite is one of the leading products for the management of business processes, for the integration of systems and the optimization of the B2B communication.

As a center for their business processes the inubit Suite manages data correctly and enables the companies to gain real-time information over processes, to keep an overview at any time and to improve the operational business continuously.



Support of different ways of communication, formats and protocols „out-of-the-box“ with the inubit BPM-Suite

## Convincing advantages of the inubit communication solution for the gas market

- Preconfigured and therefore fast realizable solution
- Completely graphical configuration – no programming
- Fast and flexibly adaptable to changing legal requirements – high security of investment
- Support of all legally predetermined message types for the data interchange and for EDIG@S-standard
- Reduction of process and transaction costs due to optimal data and process integration
- Consolidation / flexibility of the applications via the central integration server, which also integrates legacy systems optimally
- Transparent and centrally controlled processes which run in the favored process settings