



Macquarie Generation powers up with requisition approval on BlackBerry®

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Company Overview

Macquarie Generation is a State owned corporation that was established in 1996. Headquartered in Newcastle, Australia, Macquarie Generation's core business is the production and wholesale of electricity to the national electricity market.

The corporation owns and operates the Bayswater and Liddell power stations in New South Wales. These two power stations have a combined capacity of 4,640 megawatts and produce approximately 15% of the electricity that is needed by people on the East Coast of Australia. This is the equivalent of 40% of the electricity required by the people of New South Wales, making Macquarie Generation Australia's largest electricity generator.

Project Challenge

The company's business process requires the creation of purchase requisition orders for all purchases. Depending on the value of the requested purchase, the requisition may require approval by several managers before the requisition is released to the purchasing department. Macquarie Generation's Liddell and Bayswater power stations are located in remote parts of the NSW countryside. As such, senior managers and engineers spend a significant amount of time travelling and are often not at their desks to deal with administrative tasks such as purchase requisition requests. They had limited access to SAP® when travelling, often leading to delays in the approval process.

Macquarie Generation needed an efficient and effective solution that would allow its managers to be just as productive, effective and efficient when working remotely as they are when in the office. Further, there was also a requirement for the solution to have off-line capability, as the remote location of the power stations means that a connection to SAP® is not always available.

Solution

Utilising the existing BlackBerry® hardware and infrastructure at Macquarie Generation, Sky Technologies implemented **SkyMobile** in conjunction with a solution template to provide the following functionality:

- The ability to push purchase requisitions out to the application that is running on the BlackBerry® smartphone using standard SAP® workflow to an authorised BlackBerry® user.
- Generation of an e-mail notification, informing the authorising manager of a new requisition ready for review.
- The ability for an authorising manager to log into the **SkyMobile** application, view the purchase requisition details and either:
 - approve the request, or
 - place the request on hold and source more information.

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Solution Detail

When the purchase requisition request has been created and is ready for approval and release, the standard SAP® workflow triggers the extraction of the purchase requisition details from SAP® and notifies the appropriate manager (based on SAP® user ID) of a pending purchase requisition requiring approval. The manager can decide to release the purchase requisition or place it on hold and request further information from the originator.

As the application supports both real-time and stand-alone modes of operation, if the BlackBerry® device is out of range or blocked from the network, information is stored on the device and automatic synchronisation ensures that any pending transactions reach the SAP® system when connectivity is re-established. When a purchase requisition is released or deleted, the update is automatically pushed out to the BlackBerry® device and consequently deleted from the work-list queue.

Benefits

By working closely with Macquarie Generation and using **SkyMobile** and the Requisition Approval Application Template, Sky Technologies was able to deliver a complete solution without the need for additional complex middleware.

"We have made better use of our investment in BlackBerry smartphones, as purchase requisition reviews and approvals are reduced to a fraction of the time than prior to the implementation. The easy user interface has also minimised training costs and encouraged user acceptance," said Gary Ryan, SAP Applications Team Leader at Macquarie Generation.

- As noted earlier, the application runs standalone, therefore any transactions created while 'off-line' will automatically reach the SAP® system once connectivity is re-established. This is processed in background without user intervention.
- Within SAP®, the highly visible transaction management console gives a complete overview of transactions that have been processed. Drill down capability enables more information to be displayed if/when required.
- The application supports multiple levels of authorisation, ensuring adherence to appropriate workflow processes and authorisation limits.

About SkyMobile

Sky Technologies has developed **SkyMobile**, a SAP® certified technology platform specifically to deliver middleware free mobility solutions that are embedded within SAP®. **SkyMobile** operates within SAP®, using state-of-the-art technology and enables organisations to unify and align people, information and business processes by seamlessly integrating with SAP® and any mobile device such as a rugged PDA, laptop, tablet PC or BlackBerry®.

About Sky Technologies Consulting

Sky Technologies Consulting is the sole distributor of Sky Technologies software products for Australia and New Zealand and continues to deliver the high quality, value added client services that have become synonymous with Sky projects.

About Sky Technologies

Sky Technologies specialises in Enterprise Mobility and Integration for SAP®. With a strong focus on innovation, Sky Technologies has developed a technology platform to deliver middleware free mobility (**SkyMobile**), low cost integration (**SkyConnect**) and fully functional point of sale (**SkyPOS**) solutions that are embedded within SAP®. For more information on this and other solutions provided by Sky Technologies, please visit our website skytechtechnologies.com or e-mail us at info@skytechnologies.com

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