



Summary

Exel's partnership with iomart delivers cloud hosted ERP system for precision engineering manufacturer in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business Benefits for iomart Partner Exel:

- Highly Available cloud service for mission critical application
- Rapid deployment of service for customer
- 24/7 UK-based managed service

Business Benefits for CBE+:

- Hosted ERP solution
- Monthly billing
- Secure hosted environment
- UK sovereign and compliant hosting

The Challenge

CBE+ is a specialist engineering sub-contractor operating from a 100,000 sq ft purpose-built facility in Chesterfield in the United Kingdom. The business combines the capabilities of precision engineering, electroless nickel plating, gear cutting, beam pumps, and metal testing, to create an integrated supply chain proposition to critical sectors including oil & gas, medical and aerospace industries.

As part of a consolidation of the divisions within its business, CBE+ wanted to move to a new Enterprise Resource Planning system to control its production and ensure complete traceability of the products it manufactures. They chose the EFACS E/8 ERP software authored by Nottingham-based Exel Computer Systems plc., which can be hosted in the iomart cloud.

Implementation of the hosted solution took place in the midst of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant project members from all three parties were unable to meet in person. There was the additional challenge of key staff from CBE+ working on the government's Ventilator Challenge, manufacturing tens of thousands of parts to extremely tight deadlines.

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The Solution

Despite the coronavirus crisis and the lockdown restrictions, Exel, iomart and CBE+ worked closely together to ensure that the installation of the new ERP system happened to achieve the pre-COVID agreed 'go live' date. Over 10 years' worth of information from two separate legacy systems was transferred to the new solution which was tested thoroughly.

Exel uses iomart's enterprise cloud platform to provide a secure hosted environment for customers who want to implement its ERP software EFACS/E8 in the cloud rather than on premise. This offers Exel customers like CBE+ the peace of mind that their service is managed and supported by a leading cloud service provider and hosted in a secure ISO accredited UK data centre. CBE+ is an aerospace standards AS9100 accredited supplier, so ensuring its own suppliers are accredited to industry standards is vital in ensuring quality of service.

Exel's EFACS E/8 provides CBE+ with a comprehensive, flexible,

browser-based ERP software solution to monitor and control many of the business critical processes, such as change control, production planning and customer relationship management, throughout its growing operation. By hosting it on iomart's cloud platform, the company's 75 employees enjoy 'anytime, anywhere' access and are able to log in from desktops and laptops in their homes, as well as the tablet devices used on the factory floor.

Lindsay Atkins, Group Production Manager for CBE+, explains, "As we began the CBE+ journey we identified the need to combine and consolidate a number of different ERP systems that were being used across the group. Our need to centralise functions and access multiple databases through one system led us to Exel's EFACS E/8.

"Hosting EFACS with iomart is a smart and efficient way for the business to operate effectively. It allows our staff to access the platform securely 24 hours a day, whether they are in the office or working from home. This has been a vital requirement for the business during COVID-19 and has played a key part in ensuring CBE+ can continue to operate."

Despite the logistical challenges created by the lockdown, and CBE+'s sudden commitment to manufacture vital ventilator parts at the start of the pandemic, iomart and Exel worked closely with their team to put the right infrastructure in place and implement a hosted service that produced immediate benefits for the business and will support its future growth.

The Results

Hosted in a secure and ISO accredited iomart data centre in the U.K., the browser-based ERP system provides the resilience, security and flexibility that Exel customers like CBE+ require to help manage their supply chain with ease and flexibility.

iomart operates and manages the infrastructure 24/7, providing each Exel customer with a secure virtual environment that appears to them as though it is on their local network.

This secure and reliable enterprise cloud platform delivers cost efficient, monthly billed access for Exel customers run their ERP solution. Added resilience and data protection is provided through the Disaster Recovery facility provided by iomart for Exel. Each and every implementation of Exel's EFACS E/8 software is different, so iomart and Exel worked together to understand what CBE+ required.

Jonathan Orme, Sales & Marketing Manager for Exel, says, "Working with iomart, customers like CBE+ don't have to worry about security or future capacity. We can instantly scale resource to meet demand."

Help your customers on their journey to the cloud and become an iomart partner today.

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