



MTI Air Force AFWay Portal Case Study

Client Need:

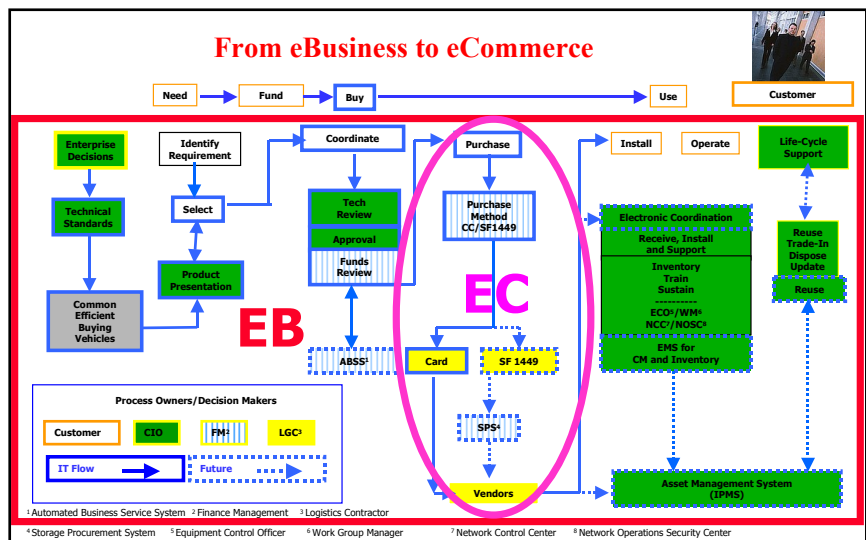
The USAir Force Air Combat Command (ACC) needed technical assistance to assess, develop, implement, and sustain existing business processes, and to determine the need for system reengineering, streamlining, and performance improvement of the USAF ACC Purchase Request Information Status Monitor system.

MTI's Solution:

Our IT specialists reviewed several ACC cross-functional applications including Automated Business Services System, Standard Procurement System, Financial and Contracting System, Standard Procurement System, and the Information Processing Management System. MTI analyzed organization mission, strategy, processes, business rules, schema development, migration approach, and current technology applied to commercial eBusiness / eCommerce techniques. As a result of these reviews, MTI was tasked to reengineer the existing purchase system, and develop and implement an innovative, cost-effective, Web-accessible IT procurement system for the ACC environment. MTI prepared a software development plan, system/subsystem specifications, design description, software installation plan, test plan, and transition plan.

Our application programmers used ColdFusion in conjunction with Rapid Application Development /Joint Application Development (RAD/JAD) techniques for this effort. The product incorporates a presentation layer and business data logic that applies custom tags and stored procedures. The application includes an online user manual, frequently asked questions, access to a listing of current users, and the ability to email a user without leaving the application.

The Web-based application enables Air Force IT buyers to share information from a single data warehouse (20 tables and 100,000 records) and provides for online, content-driven, data mining (using SQL) from vendor catalogs and data repositories. The system applies predefined business rules based on user type and function, automatic email updates of order status and confirmation, side-by-side comparison of vendor products and prices, reverse bidding of prequalified vendors, and various role-based financial and process-based reports.





The Results:

The eCommerce system, as designed, eliminates 10,000 contracting actions per year across the Command by reengineering ordering and all related processes (e.g., payment, accounting, distributing, and inventory). ***This resulted in an estimated savings of \$77 million over future years with a system that meets all requirements mandated by the Clinger-Cohen Act.***

Underscoring the success of this system, the Air Force CIO directed Air Force-wide implementation of ACCWAY (AFWay). ***Based on analysis of old and new process flows --- system efficiency, reliability, and productivity more than doubled.*** Major project activities included:

The MTI AFWay project began as a massive reengineering of existing manual processes that were time- and labor-intensive and failed to provide user access to best pricing. The initial system was developed as a proof of concept to address CIO-approved products and services. MTI created a secure online transaction-based, intranet/extranet system that enabled users to search, evaluate, select, acquire, and purchase products and services using Government credit cards. The system allowed the CIO to filter offered products and establish a minimum configuration, and enabled users to upgrade requirements as needed. Preapproved vendors interface with the system and enter product pricing, which has to meet or exceed CIO-established requirements. AFWay bundles user requests and solicits bulk bids from the participating vendors. Requests are electronically routed and tracked by the workflow engine (ColdFusion) through the required approval process. Purchases cannot be completed unless routed in compliance with defined business rules.

MTI has enhanced ACC's business operations and enabled unprecedented savings for the Command. The proposed process does away with the need for the time-consuming analysis, completion and processing of the Communication Systems Requirement document, and incorporating the use of an approved IMPAC card that makes it unnecessary to use the AF Form 9. As a result of the innovative design approach, MTI has dramatically improved the manner in which ACC conducts its business. ***According to ACC/SC (CIO), AFWay Version 1 reduced IT procurement activity by 55 percent through bulk buys, and the average time to complete that activity was reduced by 85 percent, from 14 days to 2 days.*** All design activities were performed in full compliance with C4I security requirements and AF System Security Instructions.

Customer Recognition

The Federal CIO Council presented MTI with the *Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT) Award* for performance on this task.

The ACC and MTI team received the DoD *David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award* and the USAF *John J. Welch, Jr. Award for Excellence in Acquisition*.