

Bundling Of Competences

ekom21 GmbH is a joint venture of the *Kommunale Informationsverarbeitung in Hessen (KIV Hesse)* and of the *Kommunale Gebietsrechenzentrum Kassel*.

The head office of the company is in Gießen; branches are located in Darmstadt and Kassel. ekom21 supports more than 30.000 end users in approximately 550 municipal authorities.



The company has specialized in state-of-the-art information- and communication-technologies for public authorities. **ekom21** looks back on more than 30 years of experience in that sector. The development of eGovernment solutions represents a major part of the activities. For a variety of online-services **ekom21** has been the first vendor in Germany to provide these services.

The data center of **ekom21** operates mainframes with the OS/390 operating system. The extensive amount of production data for the numerous municipal applications is managed by modern database management systems.

In addition to the decentralized products **ekom21** also offers products that run as central applications. The company also offers a suite of eGovernment applications that can be used with highly secured connections.

For years, the shareholders of **ekom21 GmbH**, the *Kommunale Informationsverarbeitung in Hessen (KIV)* and the *Kommunale Gebietsrechenzentrum Kassel*, are customers of B.O.S. They use products like BOS-Help, BOS-Pack, and BOS-Skip.

The first contacts with B.O.S. concerning tcACCESS have been established in 2000. tcACCESS was shortlisted to provide fast access to the mainframe databases. After intensive tests tcACCESS was purchased at the end of 2000 for use at the KIV.

During the year of 2001 **ekom21 GmbH** was founded and more and more focus was put on municipal Internet applications. "We started the first activities in 1997 that lead to today's eGovernment. In those days the *HessenNet-Information-System* offered a professional and cost-effective platform for Internet representation to our customers " remembers Volker Steinbeck, Manager eGovernment at **ekom21**. But not only that. **ekom21** provided the first real eGovernment solution in Germany: Car registration using the Internet, including electronic signature.

During fall of 2003 additional projects have been started to enable public and municipal authorities to access their data using a browser. Volker Steinbeck: "tcACCESS was the ideal tool, to provide access to our production databases from web-applications".

Within a short period of time a team of 10 people developed a variety of eGovernment solutions that have been successfully implemented in production.

Ulrich Künkel, Director Software development eGovernment at **ekom21**: "In such a short time we have been able to develop state-of-the-art applications.

These applications are being implemented in the area of resident's registration and can be used by the municipal registration offices for reporting and statistical purposes. Another project was the development of a data-pool for the resident's registration. Authorities of the federal state of Hesse are accessing this pool. We also provide service directly to the citizen. She or He can use the mobile phone or the Internet to query the current state of her or his passport. In what state is it? Can it be picked up at the local authorities or is it still in the production process."

An important part of the eGovernment suite of products is **ewo21**, an application that also accesses the data of the resident's registration. Ulrich Künkel: "We offer a variety of reporting and analytic capabilities to the municipal offices. They use them to perform their day-to-day operations and ewo21 helps them in their decision-making processes. As an example, it is possible to analyze whether the current school- and kindergarten-offerings are still sufficient for the near future or whether additional facilities should be considered. Any type of report or statistical analysis is possible – the end-user can define the selection criteria. tcACCESS assumes responsibility that the data is being safely retrieved from the mainframe. It goes without saying that all legal requirements are being met and that the end-user can only work with data that he has authorization for. Protecting the citizen and the data of the citizen is very important to us".

Approximately 400 municipal authorities with more than 1200 persons in charge are the potential customers that use the **ewo21** application of **ekom21**.

Volker Steinbeck: "We will further expand our activities in the area of eGovernment. It is our objective to achieve an optimization of all processes at our customers. On the way to this, tcACCESS will be an efficient and well proven remedy."

Ulrich Künkel: "tcACCESS is the ideal tool for our development. It has an outstanding performance and we are also happy with the competent support provided by B.O.S."

Contact: Volker Steinbeck

Ulrich Künkel

Peter M. Horbach

ekom21 GmbH
Fon: +49-6151 / 704-351
Volker.Steinbeck@ekom21.de

ekom21 GmbH
Fon: +49-6151-704-103
Ulrich.Kuenkel@ekom21.de

B.O.S. Software GmbH
Fon: +49-89-4619930
peter.horbach@bossoftware.de

The ewo21 application

ewo21 provides several analytical and statistical reports for the municipal authorities. The reports are created based upon the current resident's data. The queries are being performed within the scope of the access authorization of the user currently signed on to the system. All legal requirements are being met.

A Service for the citizen:

The citizen can use his mobile phone or the internet to query the status of his passport. Can it already be picked up at the local authorities or is it still in the production process.