OrbusSoftware

Elexon:
Achieving Technological Efficiency and Financial Optimization

Excelling in an Evolving Energy Market

Elexon is an essential part of Great Britain's energy market, managing the balancing and settlement arrangements for energy suppliers and generators.

The organization works closely with National Grid and various partners to develop robust systems that support the dynamic nature of energy distribution and consumption.

Key information

INDUSTRY

Energy

REGION

EMEA

USE CASE

Application Architecture Management, Technology Architecture Management, Business Capability Management, Application & Technology Roadmapping

PLATFORM

OrbusInfinity

Adapting to a Data-Centric Energy Landscape

Technological advancements and the shift towards distributed energy sources like solar and wind have introduced significant complexity to the energy market.

The increased granularity and frequency of data have necessitated a transition from traditional, centralized systems to modular, cloud-based solutions.

This transformation, vital for enhancing productivity and meeting evolving customer expectations, poses numerous challenges in selecting and integrating technologies from the diverse market.

Elexon needed a solution that would help simplify decisions, provide insight into its current IT landscape and capabilities, identify opportunities to streamline its IT portfolio, and pinpoint technology, process, or capability gaps.

Selecting OrbusInfinity for Enhanced Architecture Management

The team at Elexon was familiar with the value of an enterprise architecture platform but had been let down in the past by products that were too specific and difficult to adopt. They often created challenges for sharing content, forcing users to export data in various formats and then manually email to the relevant stakeholders.

After learning about OrbusInfinity, Elexon embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of the platform, facilitated by thorough guidance and support from the Orbus team.

This proof of concept allowed the organization to test integration capabilities and adapt processes to the platform, which led to its selection for its intuitive operation and potential for broad adoption across teams.

"

The Orbus team provided guidance and suggestions, so we were able to make an informed evaluation of the product and ultimately decide to use it."

- Stephen Francis, Enterprise Architect

Seamless Implementation, Scalability, and Collaboration

Implementing OrbusInfinity marked a significant milestone in Elexon's IT architecture journey, with notable enhancements to workflow efficiency and data management:

- **Data migration:** Leveraging OrbusInfinity's robust migration capabilities, the team successfully transferred a substantial amount of data from existing architecture tools. This streamlined the onboarding process, enabling swift adoption and utilization of the platform.

- **Scalability and license acquisition:** The team quickly recognized the need for additional licenses to accommodate the platform's widespread usage, which it was able to quickly acquire. This proactive approach ensured scalability and uninterrupted access for all stakeholders.

- **Workflow transformation:** With the majority of architecture content centralized within OrbusInfinity, the team experienced improved accessibility and collaboration. Key artifacts, including application catalogs, risk registers, and other documents were efficiently managed within the platform, streamlining processes and enhancing visibility.

- **SharePoint integration:** OrbusInfinity's alignment with Microsoft 365 enabled Elexon to make greater use of its existing Microsoft investment, leveraging SharePoint to optimize document management practices for design diagrams, governance documents and others.
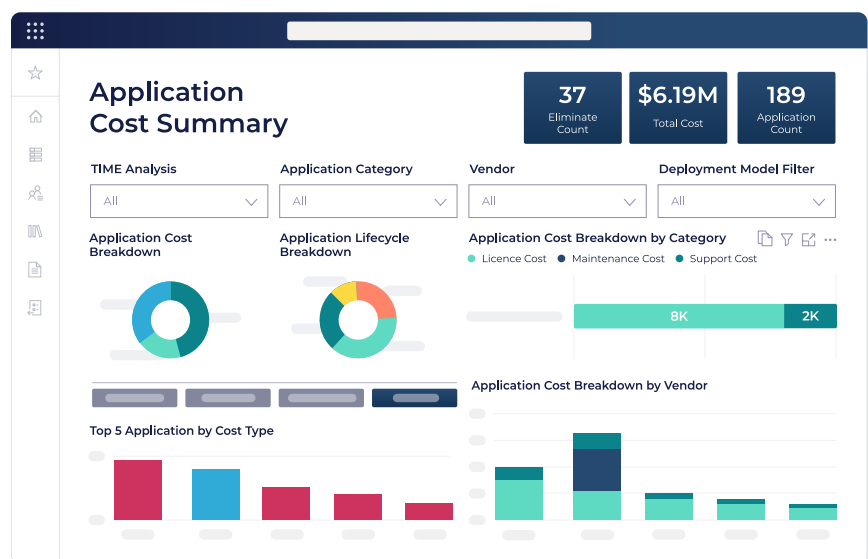
> "
> We started with OrbusInfinity as a potentially useful tool to support our architecture activities, but now we could definitely say it's a core part of our architecture way of working."
> **- Stephen Francis, Enterprise Architect**

Driving Operational Efficiency and Cost Reductions

OrbusInfinity has empowered Elexon with strategic insights that led to significant operational cost reductions and optimization of resource allocation. Key achievements include:

- **Business value analysis:** Identified about 30% of applications for near-term retirement, streamlining the technology portfolio.

- **Optimization of investment:** Directed focus towards essential applications and areas requiring further development.

- **Cost savings:** Reduced overhead by eliminating redundant and underperforming technologies.

> " OrbusInfinity has improved the decision-making process at Elexon, helping us to show where we need to invest or eliminate applications within the architecture."
>
> **- Anthony Riding, Chief Enterprise Architect**

Enhancing Decision-Making and Market Adaptation

The implementation of OrbusInfinity not only facilitated cost savings but also enhanced decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and agility in responding to market changes through its visualization capabilities.

- **More informed decision-making:** OrbusInfinity empowered Elexon to use and adapt out-of-the-box visualizations to produce compelling content for key stakeholders. These visualizations and integration with Visio provided clear guidance and insights.

- **Adapting to market changes:** The platform's robust business architecture capabilities are integral to developing new governance structures and supporting strategic pivots in operations.

- **Stakeholder engagement:** The team uses OrbusInfinity to present complex architecture data in a clear and understandable format. This has improved communication and collaboration among teams, fostering alignment and driving organizational success.

- **Strategy development:** The platform has played a pivotal role in developing initiatives, such as the new digitalization strategy, by visualizing business architecture components.

"

We've been able to adapt out-of-the-box visualizations so that we can produce compelling content for the people who need to make key decisions."

- Stephen Francis, Enterprise Architect

Strategic Enhancement with OrbusInfinity

Looking forward, Elexon sees OrbusInfinity continuing to play a pivotal role in its architecture decision-making processes. The organization plans to focus on several key areas to maximize the platform's utility:

- **Application portfolio management:** Streamlining management to identify key investment areas and potential reductions.

- **Risk assessment:** Enhancing capabilities to evaluate and mitigate risks more effectively.

- **Reporting enhancements:** Developing more robust reporting functions to support transparency and informed decision-making.

- **Technology architecture artifacts:** Expanding the use of OrbusInfinity in developing and refining technology architecture, which will be crucial for future technology strategies.

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We've been able to use OrbusInfinity to help us make strategic decisions, and we expect this to continue over the coming years as it forms a core part of our strategic direction."

Stephen Francis, Enterprise Architect

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About Orbus Software

Orbus Software is a leading global provider of enterprise transformation solutions. We aim to empower customers with a strategic decision-making platform to successfully manage complex change. Our OrbusInfinity platform enables leaders to deliver business objectives, innovate faster, and ensure enterprise resiliency, while supporting them to make more informed, responsible, and sustainable business decisions.

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