

A Move Calls for Detailed Plans

# HSH Nordbank Hypo AG Moves its Headquarters from Munich to Hamburg

By Peter Biell

*HSH Nordbank AG acquired 100 percent of the shares of HKB Hypotheken- und Kommunalkredit-Bank in Hallbergmoos near Munich. The transfer of ownership took effect on September 1, 2003. Thanks to its purchase of HKB, HSH Nordbank can now issue covered mortgage bonds. This refinancing ability of the predecessor institutions Hamburgische Landesbank and LB Kiel, as public banks, was lost with the foundation of HSH Nordbank as a corporation. HKB has been renamed as HSH Nordbank Hypo AG, Hypo for short, and it is moving its headquarters to Hamburg.*

In September, 2003, MaK DATA SYSTEM was asked to assist in the systems aspect of HKB's move from Munich to Hamburg, and to take over some applications as well as coordinative tasks between the individual modules.

A general design was commissioned to determine when a move to Hamburg would be possible. To make this determination, various modules – facility management (FMS), telecommunications and the network, security, server, and client, along with applications – had to be evaluated.

After many discussions and on-site analysis, the head of systems operations was given a move recommendation for the beginning of December, 2003, and this was communicated to upper management. December 6, 2003, was selected as a final move date. Now the detailed design had to be created. It had already been determined during the general design phase that the former HKB was using applications similar to those used by its new parent. The project team now began to create a detailed design for the move and to determine exactly who was responsible for the standard applications and services (user structures) and for the front- and back-

office applications (business applications).

After a short time it was obvious that remote analysis by telephone and meetings on-site were not going to be sufficient to hold to the December, 2003, date. A quick decision was made to implement a connection to Munich. Together with the network operations team of HSH Nordbank AG, a Virtual Private Network connection over ISDN (128 kbit/s) was created, corresponding to the security profile of HSH Nordbank AG.

In Munich, three test clients were created, installed using HSH Nordbank AG standards, and configured. This allowed applications to be migrated, tested, and released step by step in Munich.

The test environment also allowed personnel to get to know their future applications and begin to adapt to the profile for the Hamburg location. The Hypo will continue to have access to external service providers such as Clearstream, Bloomberg, Reuters, and so on, but in part using new programs, for example a new 3270 emulator, Lotus Notes instead of MS Outlook, and others.

One focus was front- and back-office applications, as opposed to standard applications or user migrations into the system landscape of HSH Nordbank AG. Just like HSH Nordbank AG, HKB also had different service providers for front- and back-office applications. These included Clearstream (German stock market clearinghouse), Bloomberg and Reuters (market data suppliers), the Hypo Bank in Essen (back-office application), VDH (news alerts), Bundesbank / LZB (payment traffic and tender processes) as well as house banks (business accounts using FTAM).

Some applications had to be constructed as stand-alone systems, since the security guidelines of HSH Nordbank AG did not allow their integration into the internal network. That meant that an ISDN interface would be necessary for each PC, and that the application could not be accessed via TCP/IP.

The applications were tested and released in Munich in cooperation with the users. Since the migration was taking place in Munich, a comparison with the actual situation could be made at any time.

# HSH NORDBANK

In October, a complete backup was performed on the servers of HSH Nordbank AG. The modified data were compared daily using the encrypted connection. After the last comparison, all servers were then brought down.

Despite the extremely good preparation of IT management at the Hypo and HSH Nordbank AG alike, the work remaining for the weekend in question was still very extensive.

Only after the furniture arrived from Hallbergmoos could the workstations be made operational and their connections to the internal network of HSH Nordbank AG be tested. The workstations had already been equipped with the software beforehand, so that nothing more than a final test was necessary.

While the HSH Nordbank AG project team could go home at about midnight Saturday, Hypo staff still had

a number of things to take care of on Sunday, such as creating instructions for the new work environment, door signs, guide markers, and so on.

On Monday, the first day of first level support on-site was provided. Thanks to the work environment created in Munich, personnel were already familiar with their new work environment from login to use. So work could begin without delay after the arrival of staff at their new workplace in Hamburg.

*Project Team, from left: Ulrich Schultheis, Irene Eschner, Erwin Haib (all Hypo), Peter Biell (MaK DATA SYSTEM)*



photo: MaK DATA SYSTEM

The Hypo hired new staff on January 2, 2004, and at later times. The extension for these new employees was also to be planned and overseen. Furthermore, MaK DATA SYSTEM won further contracts, such as the tender process using Lotus Notes via X.400 to the LZB. The connection to the LZB in Hanover is still in Munich in an interim phase.

Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the IT staff of the Hypo as well as the project team split between MaK DATA SYSTEM and HSH Nordbank AG, the very short move deadline could be met to the satisfaction of the Hypo's management.

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