



33rd Annual Conference
Austin, Texas
May 23 - 27, 2010

Taking Your Administration to a Great State
Merit Award
Application and Criteria

Completed applications must be received by: March 15, 2010

We are requesting all applications be submitted electronically.

Send completed application electronically to: Jenny Acker at jennifer.acker@wisconsin.gov.

Criteria:

1. Any innovative changes in your office that have been implemented which allow the office to continue or increase its efficiency; or
2. Any technology innovation that improved the efficiency of the office, service to the customer or otherwise benefited the office.
3. Innovations submitted can include process/practice improvements, operational efficiencies, internal management procedures, fiscal management or work flow.
4. Only those innovations that have not been previously selected for recognition and which are presently in operation may be nominated (projects which are planned or currently under development are not eligible).
5. Application must be accompanied by a detailed description of the innovation and must demonstrate how it has enhanced your office. Award recipients will be given time at the 2010 IACA Conference to present their innovation.
6. While specific content of the submission is not mandated, application should include: an introduction, description, results of implementation, benefits (cost, production, or customer service), and lessons learned.

Jurisdiction:

The Ministry of Justice North-Rhine Westphalia, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Joint Commission of the Federation and the 'Länder' for data processing and rationalization

Submitted by:

For the Ministry of Justice North-Rhine Westphalia by Axel Forstmann

Date Submitted:

March, 12th 2010

Description of the Innovation:

At the beginning of 2009, the Joint Commission of the Federation and the 'Länder' for data processing and rationalization in the German Justice, responsible for enhancements of the German Business Registries, decided to launch an international version of the existing Business Register Online system making communication with international business registries possible. XML-structured data exchange should be possible on an international level as already undertaken in Germany. The German Business Register Portal should afford all registry users to search, monitor and retrieve documents in different languages.

Please see the Executive Summary and Introduction section of the report attached.

Results of Implementation:

The results of the implementation have been very impressive. Inside the German Register Portal www.handelsregister.de, the system allows the registry user to access the system in different languages, such as English, French, Italian and Spanish.

A messaging system has been built up between the United Kingdom and Germany (such a system is possible for all international BR) which is currently monitoring more than 35000 companies with a connection between Germany and the UK. Information about changes in status is communicated in XML-structure.

XML-structured BR-information can be given, on demand, to all registry users.

Please see the Executive Summary and Results Achieved section of the attached report

Benefits of the Project:

The cost to industry has been decreased with the reduction in the use of the postal system and personnel time. The search for information via the portal is simpler for foreign users. The knowledge about the status of branches in foreign countries supports companies in cross border business. Working with XML-Structured data reduce personnel costs.

Lessons Learned:

There is an urgent necessity to offer cross border business register information to the business community. At a time where the local and global economies have moved into recession, valid business register information is vitally important. Direct access to that information, in different languages and a processable form, limits the risk to international business and reduces the costs.

Awards will be presented at the 2010 IACA Conference.

Award recipients should be prepared to give a brief presentation about the development, implementation, and benefits of the innovation.