

SAF uses IBM Innovation Center to provide scalable automated replenishment solution

SAF AG, based in Tägerwilen, Switzerland, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of automated forecasting and replenishment systems for retail and industrial manufacturers. SAF deploys the demand chain management approach, which controls replenishment planning based on consumer demand patterns. This results in lower inventories, improved product availability and a higher level of customer satisfaction.

SAF has enjoyed a long, productive relationship with IBM®. Recently SAF achieved Advanced level status in the IBM PartnerWorld® program, through the implementation of its replenishment solution SAF RetailSuite at a world leading retail chain in the US. As a PartnerWorld member, SAF can work with the worldwide IBM Innovation Centers, which provide customized technical assistance, together with access to marketing, selling and collaboration benefits. SAF is currently working with IBM Toronto Software Lab, Canada.

Recently, IBM Innovation Center team in Zurich, Switzerland has been working with SAF to conduct performance and scalability tests for SAF RetailSuite on real customer data. The comprehensive testing was done in support of a bid to one of the top five US grocers, which SAF subsequently won.

In the tests, the SAF solution computed the daily orders of 1000 retail stores, which reflect calculations for more than 47 million stock keeping units within a well-defined time window each day. Handling such huge data volumes has proved the performance and scalability of SAF RetailSuite to at least 1000 stores as well as its stability by leveraging the IBM DB2® database and IBM WebSphere® MQ on the Power™ 570 server.

As a result of the tests, SAF was also awarded the "Ready for IBM DB2 data server software" mark. Building on the success with the Power™ 570 server, SAF developed with the IBM partner enablement team in Toronto on a standardized SAF RetailSuite appliance targeted at the mid-market segment. Based on IBM System x® hardware, the appliance is designed to strike an optimal balance between performance and cost. The appliance solution greatly improves time-to-value and overall ownership experience for SAF's customers in this segment and represents a clear milestone in the relationship between SAF and IBM.

These successful results will help SAF's customers to achieve the highest possible return on their technology investments. Oliver Drehmann, COO at SAF is convinced that "Users of SAF RetailSuite will benefit from the improved ability to plan projects in terms of budget and investment."

"IBM's global structure and SAF offerings combined will provide customers a highly scalable automated replenishment solution and SAF with a great opportunity to develop its business further." adds Dr. Andreas von Beringe, CEO and President at SAF.



SAF AG <http://www.saf-ag.com>

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