

**Bord Gáis Éireann**

**Gas MAP**



## Summary

Bord Gáis Éireann – the company that distributes natural gas in Ireland – was responsible for putting systems in place to allow the Irish energy market to be opened to competition.

This mandate – the result of EU policy – meant that BGE had to ensure all entrants to the market for retail gas supply were provided with equal access to the infrastructure and systems that support the marketing, sale and supply of gas in Ireland.

BGE selected AMT-SYBEX to implement its Gas Market Messaging and Process project (Gas MAP). AMT-SYBEX offered previous experience of energy supply projects in the UK and Ireland, and successfully delivered an integrated solution that allowed gas shippers to communicate with Bord Gáis Networks using standard processes and messages.

## Background and Business Objectives

BGE provides and operates natural gas transmission lines bringing gas from the Kinsale Head and North Sea Gas fields to towns and cities across Ireland. BGE employs 800 staff directly and indirectly a further 2,000 people are involved in the industry. BGE has offices in Cork and Dublin and has more than 500,000 customers, with a turnover in the region of €800 million.

The business objectives of the BGE Market Messaging solution, enabling market opening in Ireland, were to:

- Minimise financial and technical barriers to market entry
- Automate reliable and secure exchange of market messages between BGN and retail gas Shippers' applications
- Provide a low cost method for Shippers to create and exchange market messages with BGN
- Integrate with BGN's IUS system. IUS is used to manage gas point registrations, forecasting, data collection and gas allocation on the gas distribution network, and retail transportation billing
- Provide Shippers with rapid access to the BGN-owned data required to execute market processes where time is of the essence

The key requirement of the project was to provide all gas Shippers with a standardised method to communicate market process information with Bord Gáis Networks, ensuring equal treatment for all market participants and minimising barriers to market entry. This took the form of an Irish Gas Market Messaging Solution, incorporating a real-time Gas Shipper Self-Service Component that provided an automated means of exchanging and validating data between the gas transporter and the market participants.

AMT-SYBEX, having had experience of the retail electricity market opening project in Ireland for ESB, and the Centrica energy supply project in GB, was able to put forward a strong proposal based on its own, proven software platform for energy market integration, and was awarded the contract to deliver Gas MAP in March 2007.

## Products and Services Provided

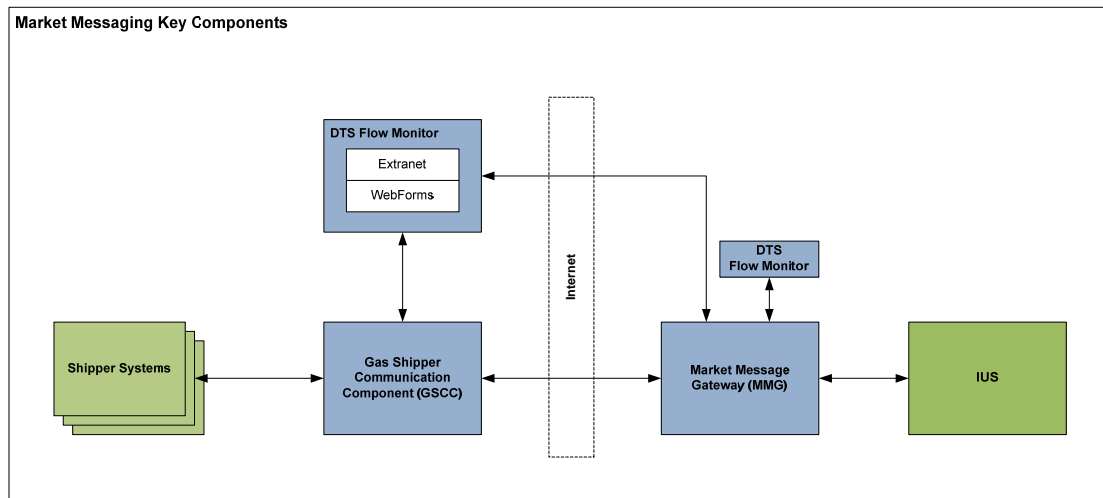
AMT-SYBEX provided all the software components and licenses to meet the Gas MAP requirements. Much of the functionality was delivered using AMT-SYBEX's industry data flow product, DTS.

The services provided by AMT-SYBEX included all of those needed to design and develop the solution, specify the hardware and network components required, and provide on-going managed service support.

AMT-SYBEX delivered the following:

- Software products
  - AMT-SYBEX DTS
  - The Sun Java CAPS integration broker software
- Solution delivery
- Software configuration
- Data consultancy
- Technical consultancy
- Training
- Liaison with Shippers and other market participants
- Software maintenance
- Managed services

## Technical Overview



Interfacing between the Shipper and Transporter within the Retail Gas Market take place using a series of message exchanges as defined in the Market Messaging Implementation Guide. Each Market Implementation Message contains data relating to a single business transaction.

The Market Message Gateway is the component on the Transporter side which manages the automated transfer of these MIMs between the Transporter and the Shipper, it facilitates the exchange of information with the Shipper GSCC as well as validating MIMs and providing routing and integration services to Bord Gáis systems. The MMG will also manage the Shipper partner profiles containing technical information required for the processing of message exchanges.

The Gas Shipper Communication Component is the component on the Shipper side responsible for managing the automated transfer of MIMs between Transporter and Shipper.



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