



DB SYSTEL

Cloud Migration Saves DB Cargo ~\$4 Million Yearly



DB Systel serves as Deutsche Bahn's digital partner, delivering cutting-edge IT solutions based on cloud and service technologies. The subsidiary employs some 5,000 employees and specializes in cloud computing, AI, and data-driven transformation. In various partnership models with other DB business units, they are digitalizing countless rail-related business processes to deliver maximum customer value and stay competitive in a rapidly evolving industry.

Challenge

For companies in the rail freight industry — and beyond — modernizing critical systems is key to keeping their operations on the rails and staying competitive. A 2024 IDC report predicts that by 2026, 90% of organizations will experience IT skills shortages, potentially leading to \$5.5 trillion in losses. In this scenario, digital transformation is no longer a choice. It's a necessity.

DB Cargo, a business unit of Deutsche Bahn, found itself in such a position. Its Cargo Order Management System (CAM), the backbone of its operations, was on borrowed time. Built in the late 1990s by multiple service providers, the system was a maze of various modules connected through various interfaces to different systems.

The situation left the business with numerous issues:

- **Soaring operational costs:** Running CAM on a complex mainframe environment was increasingly unviable. The aging architecture was rigid and costly to maintain.
- **The burden of tech debt:** Years of maintenance had left behind redundant code and other intricacies, making the system difficult to manage and update.
- **An impending talent shortfall:** Recruiting IT professionals with expertise in mainframe technologies had become a losing battle.
- **No room for disruption:** Any changes had to be executed without disrupting freight operations or impacting the customer experience.

DB Cargo's highly complex environment made modernization challenging. DB Systel, Deutsche Bahn's digital partner, was tasked with finding a solution.

The Challenge

DB Systel had to modernize a mission-critical system to cut soaring costs, improve agility, and mitigate a mounting talent crisis.

Solution

CAM is central to DB Cargo's operations, so modernization had to be seamless, secure, and built to last. These requirements led them to Rocket Software, whose expertise in legacy and modern technologies could deliver the transformation DB Cargo needed—without interfering with everyday workflows.

Rocket Software worked closely with DB Systel to create a step-by-step project plan: Rocket conducted a thorough analysis of the existing CAM infrastructure, identified opportunities, and developed a phased approach to transition to a more flexible, cost-effective cloud solution.

From there, the team managed the seamless migration of CAM's mainframe workload onto AWS® Cloud using Rocket® Enterprise Server, creating a more scalable and resilient infrastructure. The project team eliminated nearly 50% of redundant code and unused features, streamlining the application and reducing complexity to support future scalability. To ensure a seamless transition, the old and new systems ran in parallel, mitigating risks and guaranteeing a disruption-free switchover for DB Cargo and its customers.

Rocket's knowledge of old and new architecture enabled DB Systel to overcome the challenges that accompany any modernization. The team provided expert guidance that uncovered and resolved hidden system dependencies, adding value as a trusted partner on a transformative project.

The Solution

With zero disruption to freight operations, the company migrated a highly complex cargo application portfolio from mainframe to AWS Cloud, increasing its efficiency.



// Through Rocket Software, we identified the ideal partner to drive the modernization of CAM forward. They not only understood our technology but also grasped the complexities of the rail cargo industry, combining both to deliver an excellent solution.”

CHRISTIAN HÜBNER

Product owner of the logistic platform solutions unit

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// Working with Rocket was very pleasant and collegial. They were always there for us, and even after the project ended, we're still receiving good support.”

PHILHARD ACKERMANN

Application developer and environment manager

DB SYSTEL

Results

With Rocket Software's support, DB Systel successfully transformed CAM into a modern, cloud-based system. It boosts agility and efficiency and is much more straightforward to scale.

They witnessed significant benefits almost instantly:

- **50% reduction in operational costs:** Migrating off the mainframe and streamlining their operations in a modernized environment led to \$4 million in annual savings, freeing up resources for further innovation.
- **Bridging the talent gap:** Shifting to cloud-based infrastructure expanded DB Systel's talent pool. They can now attract and retain skilled IT professionals more easily — key to long-term success.
- **Better customer experience:** The migrated CAM system offers DB Cargo's customers more flexibility when placing requests, and DB Cargo fulfills those requests faster.
- **Future-ready infrastructure:** Establishing an updated system makes future development and maintenance simpler and more efficient.
- **Unlocking new technical potential:** Moving away from the mainframe has opened the door to new capabilities and positioned the business for continued growth and innovation.

Impact



Cost savings

Moving to cloud-based infrastructure led to a 50% reduction in operational costs.



Efficiency

The modernization project saves the business ~\$4M annually.



Agility

Teams can respond faster to changing customer and market needs.



Talent

It's easier to recruit top-tier IT professionals to work at Deutsche Bahn.

Modernization. Without Disruption.™

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