

## CROSSING BORDERS FOR SUCCESS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

### Challenge

After the sale of Findus to EQT Scandinavia, the company realized that a common business and IT platform was required. The IT environment was focused on local operations rather than European operations. Each country worked in a different way. There was a lack of policies and procedures and lack of coordination between different sites – there was no overall IT business model. A platform that could adjust to the constant change the company experienced was needed.

### Solution

One of the key components in the suggested IT strategy was the integration of various applications and business processes across all countries and departments. The IT services and consulting company, Capgemini, helped to deal with this task, which included evaluation and selection of a tool. This resulted in the selection of the webMethods Integration Platform, which was implemented as the central hub for all the applications and systems in Findus.

### Benefits

The goals set for Findus have been achieved. Continuous work is handled by the application management center, which will take care of support, maintenance and further development. The solution will be implemented in all countries where Findus does business.



Findus is a leading international frozen food brand that develops, produces and markets a complete range of frozen food products. The company has presence in Norway, Sweden, Finland, UK, France, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Thailand and Australia.

In 1941, Marabou, a Swedish confectionary company acquired Findus. In 1962, Marabou sold the Findus business to Nestlé, and it remained under Nestlé ownership until January 2000, when it was sold to EQT Scandinavia BV.

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**“In a simple way, webMethods integration platform makes all enterprise data available, in real-time if desired. It provides business process integration with high level of trackability and guaranteed deliveries.”**

Behzad Andishmand | Capgemini IT Architect and EAI Project Manager at Findus

## Energy, speed, success

Jerker Andersson, CIO of Findus, was responsible for developing the IT strategy of the “new” Findus company. This project was christened “Finesse” (FINdus, Energy, Speed, SuccEss).

First, the key requirements were set. Findus wanted to operate on a global basis instead of a country basis. Their second challenge was to concentrate the number of applications they were working with, minimizing the number of possible IT production sites. In addition to this, they wanted an IT infrastructure which was scalable and flexible for potential acquisitions and divests.

The webMethods platform was implemented as the central hub for all the applications and systems in Findus. “The alternative approach would be to build point-to-point interfaces between the IT systems of the company, which in the long run would not fulfill the requirements, wouldn’t be as cost-effective as we wanted, and this solution would become very difficult to manage, maintain and administer,” according to Behzad Andishmand, Capgemini’s IT architect and EAI Project Manager at Findus.

## Relying on a recognized leader

Behzad continues, “We were taking some risk; webMethods integration platform is clearly the leading provider in the integration space, but it had never before been used in such a huge project in Sweden. However, we had already successfully implemented the webMethods integration platform in projects at Elemica, Covisint, Colt Telecom and Ford.”

Also, the IT manager of Findus, Göran Bengtsson, was trusting and knowledgeable. “The greatest advantage of the webMethods integration platform is that the system is event-based and has the flexibility we need. The technology has been successfully implemented in other parts of the world.”

As a part of the project, Findus replaced a number of country-specific SAP applications with SAP EBT (the SAP European Base Template). APS (Advanced Planning System from SCT) has replaced a number of country-specific applications as well. Two master databases have also been built by Capgemini Ernst & Young. One is used for globalization of material data; the second is used for metadata and cross-references.

## Delivering on time and on budget

The Finesse project has been on time and within budget. Stefan Olsson, Business Unit Manager, Capgemini Sweden states, “The implementation of the webMethods integration platform at Findus shows us that the webMethods product suite is an effective tool to help companies become more adaptive.”

### KEY COMPONENTS

#### webMethods Product Suite

The webMethods product suite provides Findus with comprehensive enterprise integration capabilities and the ability to standardize and improve their business operations.

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