

» Ministry of Justice of the State
of North Rhine-Westphalia

Technology Behind Bars

The logo for North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), consisting of the letters 'NRW' in a stylized font. The 'N' is green, the 'R' is red, and the 'W' is black. A small black dot is positioned to the right of the 'W'.The Fujitsu logo, featuring the word 'FUJITSU' in a red, sans-serif font with a red infinity symbol above the 'J'.

Ministry of Justice of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

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Customer profile

The Justice department of North Rhine-Westphalia employs almost 40,000 staff in 250 courts, public prosecution authorities and the prison service. The Justice department of North Rhine-Westphalia represents a committed legal and judicial service, and supports a number of projects working towards a modern and forward-looking administration of the judiciary. All together, North Rhine-Westphalia currently has a prison population of around 18,500 and a total capacity of approximately 22,000.



Initial situation

With its many different institutions, a prison is not unlike a small town, with an equally complex variety of administrative tasks. The administration of cells, the recording of detainee arrivals and releases, the payment of detainees for work, purchasing, recreational activities, and the coordination of visits, are just some examples of daily management tasks inside a prison.

These jobs used to be dealt with by a terminal-based specialist application. But maintenance of the system was difficult, and it was no longer able to keep up with the demands of a modern correctional facility. The new solution also had to tie in closely with the individual procedures at the facility.

Implementation

With Fujitsu Siemens Computers as the general contractor and MATERNA as its development partner, the Ministry of Justice of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia lay the foundations for a project to replace the existing system in the prison service with one based on modern technologies.

MATERNA developed an internet based application called BASIS-Web (Bookkeeping and Accounting System for the Prison Service). The software supports the daily operations inside a prison, its administration, its pay office and its medical service. The system has become indispensable as an integrative IT solution throughout the organisation and supports correctional facilities in a number of administrative and enforcement tasks.

BASIS-Web is a cross-border project currently involving 13 German states, along with Luxembourg. The Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia is heading the project. More than 18,000 prison service employees now benefit from the new procedures.

Advantages

- Support of the workflows of the facility, as well as administering work shifts, the pay office and the medical service
- Integrative IT solution for the entire organisation
- Modern system architecture based on internet technologies
- Modernisation and increased efficiency in prisons
- Open Source software
- Decentralised solution with centralised data exchange components
- Centralised solution for all prisons
- Cross-border project
- Evaluations centralised at regional level