

EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR

Grant Helps Austrian IT Services Company Develop E-Government Solution



“Our commitment to the development of quality e-government solutions is reflected in the size of this award. EUGA was invaluable in directing us to national and regional sources of funding that would recognise our dedication to research and development.”

Peter Stadlmann, CEO, RiS

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Situation

From its base in Upper Austria, RiS has acquired 40 to 50 per cent of the e-government solutions market in the country. The growing company, which started as a developer of regional information systems, regularly participates in Europe-wide research and development initiatives in this area. In May 2006, RiS began developing its RiS Kommunal 3.0 system—a Web content management system for municipalities designed to host more than 1,000 towns and cities. Built on a clustered redundant platform using Microsoft® SQL Server™ and Microsoft Internet Information Services technology, the e-government solution improves communications among municipal bodies. RiS contacted the European Union Grants Advisor (EUGA) for advice on potential sources of funding to maximise its resources for the project.

Solution

With the help of EUGA, RiS identified likely sources of funding for its exciting new project. EUGA directed RiS toward a grant available from the Upper Austria region and FFG—a national Austrian body created to promote research and development within the country. Generally, these awards cover 15 per cent of a project's total costs. The company was awarded €81,000 (U.S.\$108,960)—28 per cent of its total project costs. During the development of RiS Kommunal 3.0, the company's collaboration with Microsoft produced an additional benefit after RiS became a Microsoft Certified Partner. Following the award of the grant in September 2006, RiS was able to expand the team working on the project by two people.

Benefits

- Grant covered 28 per cent of total project costs and enables further recruitment.
- Company able to invest in .NET solutions.
- Company became Microsoft Certified Partner.