REC Solar

A state-of-the-art cloud system integration

Production Live on AWS 2018

REC Solar

▷ Corporate HQ: San Luis Obispo, CA

▷ Industry: Solar Energy

Technology Footprint

▷ Oracle JD Edwards E1 9.2

Syntax Solutions

▷ Syntax Enterprise Cloud®

▷ Syntax EnterpriseCare®

About REC Solar

REC Solar has helped more than 700 commercial, public sector and utility-scale solar customers think differently about energy since its founding in 1997. REC Solar offers all expert design, engineering, financing, operations and maintenance services in-house, allowing for a simple customer experience. Getting solar, storage, and microgrid proposals is easy with REC Solar. For more information, visit RECSolar.com.

REC Solar Seeks to Reduce JD Edwards Operational Costs by Migrating to AWS

REC Solar is a nationwide solar provider committed to creating a positive impact. Since its founding in 1997, REC Solar has helped more than 700 commercial, public sector and utility-scale solar customers think differently about energy while saving them millions of dollars and changing the way they do business.

On a day-to-day basis, the team at REC Solar strives to streamline internal operations in order to make renewable energy more compelling. They seek to implement low-cost, highly reliable solutions that can readily absorb the unpredictable lifecycles of energy projects.

With this mission in mind, in 2015 REC Solar's CIO and VP of Shared Services, Art Villa, researched the right ERP platform to meet their business needs, ultimately selecting Oracle JD Edwards.

After three years of hosting JD Edwards on-premise, REC Solar was very pleased with how JD Edwards was meeting their project-based financial and operational needs.

Holistically however, the organization began to recognize an opportunity to increase project profitability and productivity through leaner principles and highly connected technology systems.
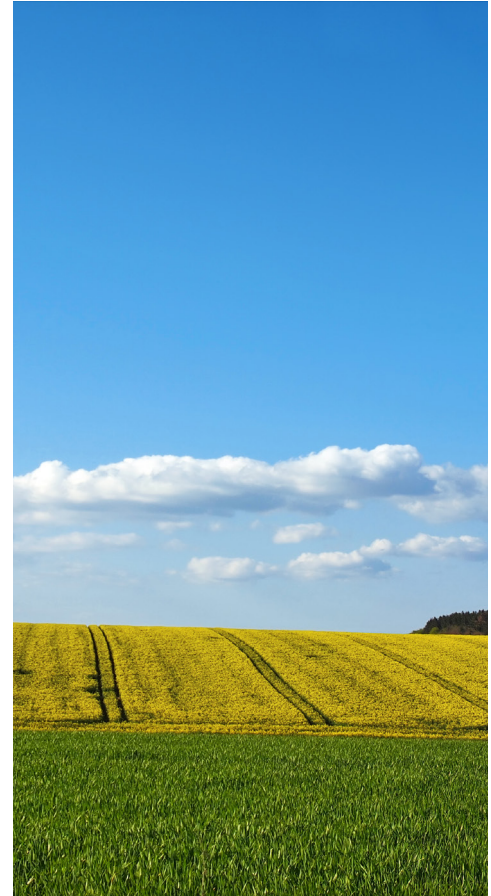
Challenges of Traditional Hosting Create an Opportunity for Change

REC Solar began to recognize that the traditional hosting approach was a step above in-house deployments. This meant that disaster recovery and data protection were also being managed in a traditional manner, requiring hosting subscriptions with no ability to leverage large scale cloud-based reliability.

REC Solar was living through the limitations of hosting on-premise. The underlying hardware configuration which was being used to host JD Edwards was set at the beginning of their contract and any upgrades or downgrades, were highly restricted by the preset infrastructure.

Equally important, they required two separate support agreements: one for the hosting environment and the other for JDE CNC and application support. The IT team saw an opportunity to consolidate these functions under a single solution to simplify their maintenance and support efforts, with a single point of contact for issues and resolution.

In effort to reduce their costs of operating their JDE system, the team at REC Solar began to consider a cloud migration.

An Experienced AWS Partner with Proven Results

Initially deploying JD Edwards as a traditional hosted solution, REC Solar was ready for an alternative approach that would more completely move their infrastructure to the cloud. Early on in their search for a cloud migration partner, Syntax quickly rose to the top of the list based upon their Amazon Web Services (AWS) Advanced Consultant Oracle Competence certification and JDE expertise. "We could not afford to take a chance on vendors that had just recently began to undertake the challenges involved with a fully cloud-based solution for JDE," said Villa. "We needed a partner with proven expertise and a track record of success."

After careful consideration, REC Solar selected Syntax as their partner for their migration to AWS. "Our primary cloud provider was Azure before moving JDE to AWS. We selected Syntax Enterprise Cloud® powered by AWS because of Syntax's expertise in deploying JDE on this platform," said Villa. "Increasing the complexity of our cloud operations was weighed against the security of using a partner that had proven ability to move JDE and Microsoft workloads to the cloud. While other vendors were prepared to help us, none had the proven ability to get it done right the first time."

Architecting for Success

Together, REC Solar and Syntax began working together to architect a solution that would be cost-effective, highly resilient, and provide the flexibility which REC Solar required to meet their highly unpredictable industry needs.

After thorough preparation and testing, the teams successfully deployed an integration between their cloud systems which is state-of-the-art, "providing a level of sophistication that would have been very difficult to stand up and maintain in a traditional on-premise solution," said Villa.

"One of the elegant aspects of our move to AWS was the simplicity of moving our entire platform almost entirely as is. We did some re-architecting as it pertained to disaster recovery, but otherwise the built-in availability zones and DR capabilities of AWS were more than sufficient to meet our requirements without the needs for additional hardware or subscription costs," said Villa.

"Using the AWS Server Migration Service, we were able to successfully move several of REC Solar's on-premise instances over into AWS," said Roberto Paul, Syntax Associate System Engineer. "Once moved over, we used our own powershell and python scripts to provision the instances to our specifications."

From project kick-off through go-live, the project teams at REC Solar and Syntax worked together seamlessly. "This was probably the single most stress-free migration I have experienced. Since then, the support team and customer service team have continued this high level of professionalism," said Villa. "We have had no infrastructure technical issues."

A Successful Partnership with Measurable Results

The migration of JD Edwards and Microsoft workloads to AWS resulted in the following results:

▷ **Reduction in Costs.**
Migrating their system to Syntax Enterprise Cloud® powered by AWS, has resulted in a reduction in the REC Solar annual budget for JDE by nearly 25%.

▷ **Increased Uptime.**
Due to the expertise of ECS and maximum performance and availability, have experienced no downtime since the migration.

▷ **Streamlined Support.**
One partner to work with and provide support for Cloud, JDE and OBIEE. Elimination of confusion between infrastructure, DBA's and system administrators.

About Syntax

aws | △ SYNTAX | ORACLE Platinum Partner

Syntax is a leading provider of cloud and managed IT services for Oracle and SAP customers. Syntax has been providing comprehensive technology solutions to businesses of all sizes since 1972. Syntax delivers the best combination of software, infrastructure, cloud, security, migration and application management services to meet the needs of its diverse range of customers in a wide variety of industries. Syntax partners include SAP, Oracle, Amazon, Microsoft, IBM and other world-class technology leaders.