



## Connect Vision applies iBOLT at Alert Steel for data synchronization and consolidation

### Overview

Alert Steel is a large retailer of steel products in South Africa. The company's reputation was built on product quality, customer service and superior responsiveness.

### The Challenge

Alert Steel needed to implement real-time distribution of data between its main office and its branches and retail outlets over limited bandwidth telecom links. It also needed to consolidate financial information between its offices, ensure data consistency and develop an enterprise data warehouse.

### The Solution

Alert Steel turned to Connect Vision, a South African consulting and integration company and a Magic Software business partner, for guidance. The recommended solution: combine SAP® Business One at the head office and all of the branches, using Magic Software's iBOLT™ Special Edition.

With this solution, personnel at the head office create and update data such as new business partners or order items as SAP Business One objects. iBOLT then receives the trigger from SAP Business One, replicates the changes to the relevant branches, and emails notification of the changes to the branch managers. The solution is simple, elegant, and effective, mirroring the way the business actually operates instead of imposing more complex IT solutions.

Building on an already-successful project, Alert Steel and Connect Vision are moving forward to exploit the powerful combination of SAP Business One and iBOLT SE in several ways:

- Creating a centralized MRP solution by extracting key data from the branches and transferring it to the head office, automating the preparation and printing of business documents
- Achieving cost reduction by optimizing information dissemination and reducing physical paper handling

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*Jane Njiji,  
Principal Consultant,  
Connect Vision*

## Case Study



- Utilizing SMS facilities to inform staff and partners in real-time of activities pertaining to their accounts
- Establishing an Enterprise Data Warehouse featuring enhanced CRM with customer-centric analysis and customer-specific trade promotion capabilities, enhanced SRM with supplier-centric analysis of buying patterns, and enhanced inventory control with the ability to identify slow-moving items and seasonal trends
- Developing an integrated B2B website that will facilitate data interchange between Alert Steel and its customers

### The Benefits

“The ability to rapidly deploy the business processes using a user-friendly technology such as iBOLT cannot be underestimated,” said Jane Njiji, Principal Consultant at Connect Vision.

The time to complete this project would have been far greater had a conventional coding approach been used.

By extending the capabilities of SAP Business One with iBOLT, Alert Steel’s personnel costs have decreased. No longer will its head office or branch staff need to re-key data. Accuracy has improved and data is consistent between all the company’s sites. Productivity is also on the rise with company staff now freed from administrative tasks and able to focus on real business and strategic issues.

Magic Software Enterprises (NASDAQ: MGIC) is a software provider of enterprise application development, deployment and integration technology.

The company’s platform allows small and medium-size enterprises to rapidly develop, change and deploy business solutions and integrate with existing and legacy systems. Magic’s products are built upon 20 years of R&D and customer experience. Through partnerships with more than 2500 ISVs worldwide, Magic Software’s technology is used to deliver solutions to more than 1.5 million customers around the globe.