

SQS joins EU digital preservation project - EU research project to focus on cloud computing data

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SQS (<http://www.sqs.com>) Software Quality Systems, the largest independent provider of software quality management and testing services, joins partners such as SAP and Intel on the EU's 'Digital Preservation for Timeless Business Processes and Services' (<http://timbusproject.net>) (TIMBUS) research project.

The 8 Million Euro project aims to improve the long-term availability of data, with a strong focus on cloud computing as companies increasingly opt to outsource their IT processes to external cloud providers.

"The trend towards IT industrialisation is as strong as ever. Many sectors are in the process of restructuring their value-added business processes while outsourcing activities that are outside of core competences," says Dr Frank Simon, Head of SQS Research.

"A dilemma which companies may face is whether all outsourced data will continue to exist and be accessible in the future. How can we ensure the full preservation of data today, given that many cloud service providers may not exist in a few years time?"

Market analysts, such as the Taneja Group, already predict that approximately 70 per cent of current cloud storage providers that have been created in the last three years will eventually disappear from the market.*

"The aim of TIMBUS is therefore to develop activities, processes and tools, over a period of three years, for the complete preservation of all business-critical information. This will include a corresponding process model for retaining all business-critical data, a concept for implementing archiving as well as ideas for re-importing archived data into in-house systems. During the project, concepts will be tested via three real case studies," says Simon.

SQS to ensure continuity of business processes

SQS is bringing its expertise in end-to-end quality management to the research project, including the know-how required to integrate all business-relevant system components into the digital archiving concept.

"The digital archiving concept will be firmly anchored in the realm of Business Continuity Management," says Simon. SQS' experience will be also used in the planned case studies, to enable direct evaluation of the research concepts."

Furthermore, SQS will be responsible for software quality management and testing during the project. Simon adds: "The archiving of outsourced data makes sense only if the data is of high quality."

By focusing on cloud services, the research project will boost SQS knowledge on the testing and quality

management of services and data in cloud environments, so adding value to services offered to its clients.

The EU's TIMBUS project was launched on 1 April 2011. The research team is expecting to complete first conceptual and innovative results by the end of the year.

The team of twelve consortium partners is made up of Caixa Magica Software, Digital Preservation Coalition, INESC – ID, iPharro Media, Intel, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil, Münster University, SAP, Secure Business Austria and SQS.

For more information on the TIMBUS project visit <http://timbusproject.net>

* http://www.cio.com.au/article/384126/cloud_storage_startup_cirtas_retreats/

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SQS Software Quality Systems

SQS is the largest independent provider of software quality management, quality assurance and testing services, with principal focus on Europe. Established in Cologne in 1982, SQS employs around 2,000 staff. SQS has a strong presence in Germany and the UK, as well as subsidiaries in Egypt, Finland, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa and the USA. SQS also has a minor stake in an operation in Portugal and a partnership operation in Spain. In 2010, SQS generated sales of 162.9 million euros.

SQS is the first German company to have a primary listing on the AIM (Alternative Investment Market) in London. In addition, SQS has a dual listing on the open market of the German Stock Exchange in Frankfurt am Main.

With over 5,000 completed projects under its belt, SQS has a strong client base, including more than half of DAX 30 companies, nearly one third of STOXX 50 companies, and 20 FTSE 100 companies. These include Allianz, Beazley, BP, Centrica, Commerzbank, Daimler, Deutsche Post, Generali, Meteor, Reuters and Volkswagen as well as companies from every other conceivable sector.

For more information, see: www.sqs.com

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