

### 14/10/09: ERI moves off IBM iSeries with Olympic



**Michel Mathys,**  
ERI

ERI has stated that, from the first quarter of next year, its Olympic system will be available on Unix and Linux with Oracle. This would mark the culmination of a major migration project that has been under way for some years (**IBS, July/August 2005**). The new version is on two shortlists at present. In a separate initiative, the supplier is considering offering Olympic on a Software as a Service (SaaS) basis, in part due to an expected influx of private banking start-ups.

The Unix/Linux version of Olympic will be the first time it has been offered on anything other than the IBM midrange (AS/400/iSeries). It is the most widely installed system in the private banking space, with over 150 known users, and also has a few for retail banking. The first version to be supported will be IBM's AIX, followed by Sun Solaris, says international sales director, Michel Mathys. ERI has been breaking down Olympic into a number of layers within its 'Next' project, for presentation, application and data. SEB Private Banking in Luxembourg has been one pioneer with the revamp (**IBS, Dec 2006/Jan 2007**). The Cobol core remains but all of the database access aspects have been removed and the supplier has added a 'Java envelope' which allows functionality to be called as a service. The core has been 'cleaned up', says Mathys and he is hopeful of having more than 50 banks on the new version – comprising existing and new users – by the end of next year.

On the SaaS side, the start-ups are expected to come from senior ex-bankers or as new ventures from existing non-bank companies. Such a service might also be attractive to hedge funds. There are long-standing outsource options such as B-Source in Switzerland or from banks such as Wegelin (**IBS, July/August 2007**) and Crédit Agricole (Suisse). Mathys estimates that in Switzerland 30 to 40 banks out of around 200 use outsourcing at present. However, ERI's proposition would be an ASP rather than the heavier outsource model. ERI is undertaking a roadshow in Switzerland with IBM and will probably do the same in Luxembourg; it will look for other partners as well.