

# Hokubee Prevents Disruptions to Vital Warehouse Operations & Boosts Efficiency with Progress OpenEdge and Professional Services

## CASE STUDY



 HOKUBEE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

### COMPANY

Hokubee Australia Pty Ltd

### INDUSTRY

Food & Agriculture

### PRODUCT

Progress® OpenEdge®,  
Progress Professional Services

### COUNTRY

Australia

### SUMMARY

Hokubee is a leading premium beef exporter in Australia and the APJ region. Hokubee collaborated with Progress Professional Services to modernize its custom product scanning program, as it was operating on an older version of Progress OpenEdge and outdated hand-held scanners. Through Progress Professional Services' guidance, Hokubee system administrators are now conducting more efficient day-to-day warehouse operations, like scanning and tracking inventory, and have removed single points of failure or entry in their older applications and devices.

**"We knew we wanted to modernize. However, Progress Professional Services convinced us to take it all the way to 12.8. The team made us consider the long-term benefits for future success. They answered all our questions and gave us the confidence to take on this project."**

**Jody Perkins**, Managing Director, Hokubee

## Challenge

Hokubee, a leading beef production company founded in Japan but based in Australia, is on a mission to clean up the way the meat industry disposes of waste and transform the methods of beef distribution worldwide. Their IT team also understood the importance of modernizing its most business-critical applications when they upgraded from Progress® OpenEdge® 10.2A to 12.8.

The organization operated a customized scanning program and inventory system built on the OpenEdge platform. For nearly a decade, the organization has been leveraging this customized application as the backbone of its infrastructure operations and wanted to continue to use it. However, the third-party company that managed the application went out of business.

Hokubee was also running its customized scanning program on older model PCs. Jody Perkins and Belinda Perkins, the Managing Director and Administration Manager at Hokubee, respectively, became aware of the security and operational risks of running an essential application on legacy hardware. If there were to be any hardware outages or malfunctions, the daily operations and the production system would have been simultaneously negatively impacted.

## Solution

Hokubee worked with Progress Professional Services to help them upgrade their customized OpenEdge-based application. First, Jody and Belinda sat down with the team to discuss why the beef distributor needed an urgent update. Instead of creating a "square peg, round hole" situation, Progress Professional Services tailored a solution that fit Hokubee's specific business needs.

Going from 10.2, which was released in November 2008, to 12.8 was a big step for Hokubee. But, thanks in part to the guidance received by Progress Professional Services, migrating from older hardware and software to a virtual machine wasn't impossible. When asked about working with Progress Professional Services, Belinda shared how streamlined the process was.

"The 12.8 upgrade was basically seamless," said Belinda. "That speaks to the strength of Progress and the team behind it."

## Results

Over the course of a year, Hokubee successfully upgraded to OpenEdge 12.8 and is now experiencing a more efficiently run business.

Hokubee has mitigated the potential security risks of operating its business on unsupported software. Jody and Belinda are no longer worried about would-be production failures. Their newly updated, reliable infrastructure enables them to focus on daily tasks and, more importantly, business scalability. One of the benefits of migrating to OpenEdge 12.8 and to Progress Application Server for OpenEdge is the increased application availability, thanks in part to its ability to back up data and remain available during planned or unplanned outages.

Jody, Belinda and the numerous other warehouse workers are pleased with the new scanning system. Instead of relying on one or two “good” scanners, the warehouse now has three efficiently working ones, which has helped increase operational capacity by approximately one-third.

But it's not just the scanners that are improving operations; the upgraded systems enable greater visibility into their inventory. Employees can track items from the Hokubee headquarters to the paddock where the beef came from.

**“The 12.8 upgrade was basically seamless,” said Belinda. “That speaks to the strength of Progress and the team behind it.”**

**Belinda Perkins**, Administrative Manager, Hokubee

The newly updated system is now providing employees with insights into every step of the supply chain, from getting the raw meat off the farm to the final shipping process. Now, Hokubee can continue providing distributors and restaurants across the APJ region with the best possible cuts of beef, all on a system powered by the OpenEdge platform.

## About Hokubee

The Meltique Beef brand was officially founded in 1981 by a visionary Japanese innovator, with the ambitious goal of transforming the beef consumption landscape in Hokkaido, Japan. This region, predominantly known for dairy farming, presented a unique challenge as the cattle in this area are not typically bred for meat production. Determined to minimize waste in the meat industry, the founder of Hokubee Co. pioneered initiatives to revolutionize beef production in Hokkaido and across the world.



**Leverage Progress Professional Services and modernize your business applications and infrastructure.**

## About Progress Software

[Progress](#) Software (Nasdaq: PRGS) empowers organizations to achieve transformational success in the face of disruptive change. Our software enables our customers to develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and digital experiences with agility and ease. Customers get a trusted provider in Progress, with the products, expertise and vision they need to succeed. Over 4 million developers and technologists at hundreds of thousands of enterprises depend on Progress. Learn more at [www.progress.com](http://www.progress.com).

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