

Case Study

Cobham Mission Systems Division

Delivering international leading-edge aerospace and defence systems with Microsoft Project Server and Microsoft SharePoint.

Cobham Mission Systems Division designs, develops and manufactures critical technology for Air-to-Air Refuelling, Weapons Release, Life Support and Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot applications and operates and maintains more than 150 aircraft on specialist flight operations for government agencies around the World. Cobham provides 95% of refuelling systems worldwide for both tanker and receiver aircraft. The Division also provides weapons carriage and release equipment and defensive aids for aircraft and Life Support equipment including oxygen systems, crew and cargo restraints and personal cooling systems for helicopters and armoured vehicles.

In order to effectively manage the thirty active projects that are segregated into four Value Streams, the Programmes Team initiated the installation of an Enterprise Project Management Solution consisting of Microsoft Project Server and Microsoft SharePoint. The division was already actively using Microsoft Project Professional but a fully integrated, collaborative solution was required to streamline project information and increase data visibility. Working in partnership with CPS, a gold competency Microsoft Partner, Cobham Mission Systems set about gathering requirements from all stakeholders to support engagement and success. CPS worked closely with Mathew Freeman, Programmes Director and David Ryder, MAPM Project Management Head of Function to undertake the Microsoft Project Server architecture design, configuration, installation, training and successful adoption of the system to approximately 150 users.

COBHAM

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With the Project Server system in place, Microsoft SharePoint functionality was developed to provide additional functionality including issues logs. Also a suite of reports and dashboards were configured to pull data directly out of Project Server to provide real-time views of the project information.

David Ryder MAPM, Project Management Head of Function, comments;

'CPS was selected as a result of recommendations from their existing client, Eaton Aerospace, and on the fact that the CPS proposed solution was the best fit for us. The CPS Project Server and SharePoint expertise was reflected in their highly-skilled, approachable consultants who delivered us a quality implementation which is rapidly proving a return on investment.'

The entire Enterprise Project Management system was realised within a secure hosting environment in order to provide flexibility, scalability and genuine cost savings by reducing the number of physical servers and man-power required. CPS recommended their hosting partner; Raskspace as a reliable supplier to meet the rigorous requirements of Cobham.

David Ryder explains;

'Rackspace were recommended by CPS and have provided us with an excellent service to date. We needed a hosting partner who could offer us clear guarantees of total security, 100% uptime and dedicated 24 hour a day technical support. Rackspace have a proven track record in all of these areas so they were the logical choice for us to work with.'

Now that the system has been fully embedded within the division the benefits of integrating Microsoft Project Server and SharePoint are evident. David Ryder describes;

'The solution has allowed us to manage our projects much better and has greatly improved the tracking of progress and resource forecasting. Project Data (Cost, Materials, Schedule) is now easily retrievable whilst project metrics are more accurate, readily available and mostly automated saving us valuable time and effort. All in all it has improved our day to day management of our business.'

By providing a comprehensive platform to ensure maximum efficiency and productivity across the

Division, the hosted solution has provided Cobham with the flexibility and scalability required for their future plans. The team intend to roll the solution out to their sister companies in Iowa and New York to have fully integrated schedules that facilitate cross-continent co-operation.