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Case Study

University of Central Lancashire targets savings from AGRESSO

AGRESSO Business World includes Financials, Project Costing and Billing, Procurement, Human Resources, Payroll, Resource Planning and Information Management.

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You need an advantage...
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In Education

AGRESSO Business World provides a fully integrated suite of modules for finance, logistics, human resources and project accounting combined with internet and e-commerce technology, making vital information more easily accessible to a wider range of users.

Agresso has a strong commitment to the public sector in the UK and throughout Europe.

AGRESSO's unique ability to analyse expenditure beyond the normal confines of a standard accounting package have made it very attractive to sophisticated organisations working within rigidly controlled budgets. Budgetary responsibility can be devolved to manager level across an organisation where costs can be truly monitored and controlled.

Agresso is a modular client/server Business information system, which offers a complete solution for Accounting, Financial control, project control, Logistics and Payroll/Human Resources, primarily in the medium to large enterprise sector. It is a multilingual, multicurrency, multicompany system that is easily configured for different operating environments.

University of Central Lancashire targets savings from AGRESSO



The University of Central Lancashire have taken the AGRESSO suite of Financials, Projects and Logistics applications to provide a fully integrated financial and business information management system which could realise six figure cost savings.

The University of Central Lancashire is a centre of excellence in Higher Education. It is a modern university firmly focused on the 21st century but with a 100 year history. It's courses are the most up-to-date and underpinned by the latest research and scholarship. The success rate in graduate employment is one of the highest in the country and this is an area to which the University attaches great importance. The facilities at the University of Central Lancashire are excellent. Most of the academic buildings are new and have been purpose built for Higher Education.

In the Autumn of 1999, the University opened its brand new, outdoor Multisport Complex - the Preston Sports Arena. This is a 60 acre, purpose built multi sports centre which is the envy of other universities. In 1999 the university was looking not just for a better General Ledger but for a system which collected data efficiently and allowed information to be accessed, analysed and manipulated easily by a wide range of end-users.

Ken Rigby, UCLAN project manager, commented: ***"AGRESSO stood out because of its information management capabilities. The system will give us improved reporting facilities, better debt management controls and improved cashflow planning, all vital given the increased commercial pressures which higher education establishments are facing."***

"In common with many other universities, each UCLAN department currently has its own method of purchasing with central control only necessary for purchases over a certain level. A cost benefit analysis we carried out indicated that by year 10 of AGRESSO UCLAN could save £1.3 million alone from more efficient purchasing of items costing between £250 and £5,000. But to do that we have to introduce a culture change and empower more people through giving them greater access to ledgers which are presented in a modern, user-friendly way. UCLAN also has an extensive property portfolio and is investing heavily in creating a sporting centre for excellence in the north west. There is therefore potential for much greater efficiency savings through having in place not just an accounting package but a fully integrated business information system which also includes its' own project management module."

Ken Rigby
UCLAN Project Manager

Procurement was another key issue with UCLAN playing a pivotal role on the Joint Purchasing Strategy group, a government initiative to design an integrated procurement system to help all HE organisations achieve better value for money. The implementation project commenced in February 2000 with the replacement of the

existing Finance and Project systems which went live in February 2001. By July 2002 AGRESSO will be fully devolved across all departments to a total of 400 users.

The implementation has been carried out under PRINCE 2 due to problems experienced with other project implementations at the University.

Says Mr Rigby *"The implementation has gone well and compared with other systems AGRESSO has been received positively. Go-Live was a bit of a non-event because the changeover was so easy"*.

Previously users were reliant on the finance department to process and provide information. Users now find themselves empowered to take things on themselves and are getting better information much more quickly. Unfortunately not all business processes had been fully defined before the implementation started, but AGRESSO helped flag up those processes that were incomplete. AGRESSO offers great flexibility, offer in many options which highlighted those areas here a better process was needed.

The University made the conscious decision to put the best staff on the project where possible. This did affect the people back in the department but it did allow the University to get the best implementation for the long term good of the University.

Already the University is seeing significant benefits in more timely information and the flexibility of reporting.

AGRESSO is capable of holding far more information than the University's previous system and the implementation took into account from the outset the end users information requirements. In a university this is very comprehensive.

Where previously users were frightened of the Finance system, they have found AGRESSO very easy. Recharges which previously had to be handled centrally are now devolved out to the departments" Central processing always introduced errors" says Mr Rigby "but now the departments are doing it the analysis is right and more and more processing is being devolved. The departments were very happy to take AGRESSO".

Ken Rigby
UCLAN Project Manager

required. Purchasing is already seeing savings which will continue to grow. Transactions below £250 are increasingly being dealt with by credit card leaving big savings to be had in the processing and control of the bigger purchases between £250 and £5,000.

In choosing AGRESSO the very active UK HE User Group was one of the big influencing factors. This peer pressure group of 25 other HE institutions has given the university a lot of benefits in assistance, advice and influence in future product developments.

"AGRESSO was the best product that we looked at" said Ken Rigby. ***"The UK HE User Group ensures that the product stays at the forefront of the sector. There has been a very good working relationship between the University and Agresso and the support Help desk has been good."***

AGRESSO is the leading financial management information system currently within the UK Higher Education sector. AGRESSO covers Financials, Purchasing, Stores, Research, Projects, Human Resources, Student Records, Education Management and Information Management. In the last three years it has twice been voted the best corporate accounting

University of Teesside
Alan Oliver, Finance Director

"Agresso has a proven track record in our sector and was able to produce some excellent references. We were also convinced by the functionality and capability of the system and by the strong support Agresso has committed both to us and to the future development of the product."

University of York & University of Lincoln
Martin Raby, Director of Finance

"We chose AGRESSO Business World because it fulfills our existing requirements very well, and, as the leading product in the Higher Education sector, we are confident it is likely to meet our future requirements as well. We believe AGRESSO is well able to support a smooth implementation process."

