**CASE STUDY - The Ministry of Defence steps up to green challenge**

**Overview**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is the third largest landowner in the country and employs approximately 280,000 people. The government department spent £16 billion pounds last year on goods and services and is therefore a significant consumer of energy. Defence Equipment & Support's Information Systems and Services (DES ISS) is based in Corsham and currently has 217 members of staff working at the site with an expansion planned to cater to 1,200 members of staff by 2012.

**Challenge**

Following the release of the MoD's *Sustainable Development Action Plan 2007-2012*, which set out the organisation's aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 15%, the DES ISS department was tasked with researching and piloting sustainable technology that would facilitate this migration to a more energy and cost efficient workplace.

With an average 10m2 desk space costing a company approximately £6,500 a year to power, heat and ventilate, including the assumed cost to own/rent the space, DES ISS realised that the new culture of flexible working meant that the MoD was both consuming unnecessary energy and wasting money.

DES ISS found that many staff were regularly working off-site resulting in unoccupied desks. Taking one specific business group case, where nine desks were originally allocated to nine members of staff, DES ISS have managed to achieve a staggering 92% occupancy by allocating the same 9 desks to 12 staff which equates to an annual saving of £24,000[1].

DES ISS began looking for new ways to accommodate flexible working through managing its office space more efficiently and making the most of the facilities it had available. With an expansion plan on the horizon, DES ISS needed to act quickly to ensure that their office buildings were no longer under-utilised.

**Solution**

The DES ISS department conducted thorough research into workplace management solutions that could facilitate hot-desking and drive the MoD towards their goals. The MoD then approached Condeco Ltd regarding its out-of-the-box workplace management software with particular interest in the desk-booking module.

Within 23 days of initial conversations, DES ISS were trialling the Condeco product before rolling it out to 60 users, who started using it to book desks when they were needed. The department then used the

software to carry out an MIS report into how much of their office space was being utilised and wasted through unoccupied desks. The results showed that the offices were overwhelmingly under-utilised. It found that just 177 desks were needed to accommodate the 217 strong workforce – and with 40 new staff members soon to join, only 12 new desks were needed.

Dan Jones, DES ISS Web Exploitation at MoD Corsham, said: “From the outset we knew that Condeco was one of the products available to help us introduce flexi-working across our department. We were able to trial the product effectively and were astonished by the results that the MIS report produced. It became blindingly obvious that there was a clear and compelling business case for a workplace management solution to facilitate hot-desking, and Condeco was instantly appealing.”

**Results**

As soon as Condeco was implemented at Corsham, staff was able to evaluate the true impact that flexible working was having on the workplace. Condeco enabled DES ISS to calculate that the department was shedding a substantial amount of money every year through empty desks alone, not to mention the wastage of valuable real estate that was not being used to its full capacity.

Since its introduction, Condeco’s desk booking software has introduced a new culture to the DES ISS workplace, which values desk space at a premium and guarantees it is utilised to the fullest.

Dan Jones commented: “Condeco is currently allowing us to raise office utilisation, reduce our energy bill, reduce our carbon footprint and, in the process, make real estate savings whilst providing a more vibrant and exciting working environment for our staff.”

“Our aim is to provide 1,400 desks to accommodate 1,900 employees by 2012 and we believe that Condeco is the product that will help us to achieve this. We consider the implementation of Condeco to be major step in the right direction in our long-term energy reduction strategy and a fundamental workplace management tool that having used we wouldn’t want to be without.”

The DES ISS department of the MoD now plans to incorporate Condeco’s *Car Parking* and *Meeting Room Booking* modules to further maximise workplace efficiency.

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Source material

1) Total Office Cost Survey 2008 11th Edition, Actium Consult (May 2008)

**Notes**

Condeco is a specialist in workspace management and booking solutions. Its award-winning Condeco software suite provides large enterprises and SMEs with the ability to manage the day-to-day aspects of office life with ease and fluidity.

Condeco scalable workspace management solution incorporates *desk booking* / *hoteling software*, *meeting room management software*, *digital signage*, *visitor management*, *car park booking software* and *event management*.

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