

Onyx Group opens up Scotland for Executive



Innovative portal helps Scottish Executive achieve savings and facilitate collaboration between local authorities. To progress the second phase of the Scottish Executive's "Modernising Government" project (MGF2), the Executive and its Open Scotland partners turned to Onyx Group for a collaborative portal to provide a content-management approach for all MGF2 projects across Scotland including the thirty-two local authority councils.

Background

The Executive's requirements were demanding. The solution had to find information quickly, structure unstructured project data, give improved project communication via teamrooms and offer peace of mind through outsourced hosting and management. It also wanted to see a cost-effective solution to support the MGF programmes.

That the Executive's partners were Scotland-wide placed a further demand on Onyx Group - that of deployment. The customer had to be sure that user acceptance and, most importantly, usability was at their optimum performance. Accordingly, during the project evaluation process, Onyx Group and the Executive discussed both known risks to the project and risk management mechanisms that could be implemented if necessary.

The consequence was that Onyx Group carried out some pioneering core product customisation ensuring usability and, in turn, user acceptance. Ultimately, this safeguarded the Executive's investment in the project.

Onyx Group's solution has two key components. First, after reviewing several options, IBM Lotus Quickplace was selected as the preferred platform. The key criteria were speed of deployment, usability and self-supporting features in terms of day-to-day management of the new system.

The second part of the solution was to have an experienced Scottish hosting partner who could provide an efficient and managed secure environment as well as offering resilience and high availability. Onyx Group's own dedicated Data

Recovery Centre in Glasgow fully met the client's requirements.

Key to winning the contract was Onyx Group's expertise in a number of core areas.

- IBM Quickplace Software
- Experience in customisation of Quickplace
- Outsourcing and high availability via Data Centre

Solutions Overview

- IBM Lotus Quickplace
- Onyx Group Professional Services
- Onyx Group Support Framework
- Onyx Group high availability hosting

Key Business Benefits

Simply, added value. The Scottish Executive, Open Scotland and its partners in the local authorities now have easy access to all project information, documentation and detail from a recognised central portal.

"For us, collaboration was critical. The solution had to enable Scottish public sector bodies to collaborate and share information, documentation and general project details in a secure, robust environment. Ease of use, deployment, and giving value for public money, were also key. " Onyx Group interpreted our brief intelligently and provided a excellent, cost-effective solution.

Tom McHugh
Open Scotland, Scottish Executive