

Yorkshire Electricity Powers Better Service Through Asset Management

Constellar™ helps Yorkshire Electricity deliver its asset data to new systems

Privatization of the electricity industry in England and Wales left Yorkshire Electricity one of the region's largest PLCs. A smooth transition to new systems to manage its electricity distribution network was essential so Yorkshire Electricity could devote more time to the needs of its customers.



In a joint venture, Yorkshire Electricity harnesses renewable energy, helping to preserve the earth's resources for future generations.

Investing in the Future

Yorkshire Electricity prides itself on the high level of investment it makes in extending and refurbishing its electricity distribution network. To manage its network more effectively, Yorkshire Electricity has developed an integrated Distributed Asset Management System (DAMS) to more efficiently manage its assets. DAMS is based on "best of breed" software packages integrated via a central data transfer gateway.

Implementing DAMS

Constellar Hub was chosen as the product most able to support Yorkshire Electricity's data migration needs.

Analysis of DAMS data migration showed the key requirement to be the migration of asset related data from three data sources, one of which was a large IDMS/X database, all running on a single ICL mainframe plus four instances, geographically based, of an ICL Office Power database running on four ICL DRS6000 UNIX servers - to two of the DAMS best of breed Oracle-based packages. This data had been built up over many years, reflecting the long operational life of many distribution network assets.

After Yorkshire Electricity's data migration needs had been analyzed in detail, Constellar Hub was chosen as the product most able to support them in meeting their objectives. The decision to go with Constellar was made after much research into the data migration software market and followed a competitive tendering process.

The legacy databases in total held a considerable amount of data which had to be migrated to support day one running of the new applications. Yorkshire Electricity maintains data relating to hundreds of thousands of assets and these are constantly being replaced or maintained.

"Our decision to go with Constellar was made following a structured examination of a number of potential solutions. Constellar, with its rule-driven approach to data migration offered the best fit with our requirements," said Kathryn Billings, the DAMS Data Conversion and Migration Project Manager at Yorkshire Electricity.

Constellar Hub first went on site at Yorkshire Electricity in June 1996 and the initial work concentrated on defining mappings between the new DAMS systems and legacy systems. The Data Conversion and Migration Project had a dedicated server to extract data “snapshots” from the legacy systems to test the data transformation and movement process.

“Throughout the project life-cycle we followed an iterative process. There was continuous design work, testing of migration rules, analyzing results and gradually increasing the size of the data sets we were working with,” said principal project analyst Dave Leslie. “We had a dedicated team of analysts and technical developers, supported by Constellar’s own implementation consultants. The process certainly proved to be as complex and time consuming as originally envisaged.”

Dave Leslie continued, “a particular problem we had to overcome was changes to the target databases as they were being developed. However, this is usual for a project of this nature and Constellar’s flexibility enabled us to meet these demands. This may prove valuable in future data migration projects.”

The final word on what has been achieved by Yorkshire Electricity and Constellar goes to Kathryn Billings. “The Data Conversion and Migration Project delivered data to their target applications on time and within budget. It was a major task and Constellar made a very valuable contribution. The delivery of this project is in turn vital to the success of the DAMS program as a whole which will mean better management of our assets and hence, better customer service.”

Yorkshire Electricity

Yorkshire Electricity’s main businesses are the generation, distribution and supply of electricity and the supply of gas.

Employees: 4000

Revenues: £1.5 billion

Systems: ICL mainframes, UNIX and NT servers, IDMS/X and Oracle databases.



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