

## Scottish Power transformed with DataMirror Constellar Hub

Commentary by Stuart Roberts,  
Information Exchange Project Manager, Scottish Power

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INDUSTRY

UTILITIES

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BUSINESS APPLICATION

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ENTERPRISE APPLICATION INTEGRATION

<sup>DataMirror®</sup>  
Constellar® Hub

Once the epitome of stability, the utilities industry in the United Kingdom is now subject to a host of external pressures. Changing industry structures, regulation and fierce competition have become facts of life that must be taken into consideration by corporate planners and strategists.

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Through organic growth, acquisitions and expansion into new markets, Scottish Power ([www.scottishpower.co.uk](http://www.scottishpower.co.uk)) has reinvented itself. In 1998, at a time of privatization of the UK energy supply market, the Company was purely a regional electricity supplier. Today, Scottish Power is a leading international multi-utility business of 24,000 employees. The company provides electricity, water and waste water services, gas, communications and electrical retailing services to over seven million customers in the United Kingdom and the western United States.

### The Problem

The expansion experienced by Scottish Power could not have been possible without the foresight and innovation of its Information Systems Division, which devised an IS strategy to provide the foundations upon which the Company could grow and prosper into the future.

Scottish Power broke into non-electricity markets largely through merger and acquisition. Consequently, the business units within the company utilized a multitude of systems implemented on different operating systems and hardware platforms in a distributed computing environment. As a result of corporate growth, Scottish Power therefore faced the challenge of integrating MVS, AIX and Solaris operating systems with Oracle, Sybase and DB2 databases, while also maintaining the integrity and consistency of the data.

### The Solution

Recognizing that continued corporate growth was only possible if information could be viewed as a single resource, Scottish Power implemented an integration mechanism to support the sharing of corporate data and the exchange of information across the enterprise. The aptly named “Information Exchange” uses metadata to manage the transfer and transformation of data between

systems. This approach ensures that accurate, consistent and up-to-date information is available wherever and whenever it is needed.

At the heart of the Information Exchange lies DataMirror Constellar Hub, a leading Oracle-based Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) tool that enables the movement, transformation and integration of data between heterogeneous environments from a central point of control.

According to Stuart Roberts, Information Exchange Project Manager for Scottish Power, a key consideration in selecting the DataMirror solution was its flexibility. "DataMirror Constellar Hub has an open architecture, which means that Scottish Power can use the solution to integrate any future systems that happen to come along, by acquisition or otherwise," he says.

Whatever business applications are purchased or developed in the future, DataMirror Constellar Hub ensures that, regardless of the underlying technology, the applications can be integrated into Scottish Power's Information Exchange.

## The Benefits

The Hub has extended Scottish Power's options with regards to the migration of legacy systems. A wide range of alternative strategies – for example, staged transfer or parallel operation – can now be considered. Flexibility also extends to meeting any future changes in the industry's regulatory framework and to the

changing requirements of the organization. Furthermore, the DataMirror solution is sufficiently scalable to handle the growth in data that is an inevitable consequence of a rapidly expanding customer base. Data volumes will undoubtedly grow and so Scottish Power's enhanced ability to manage data has become key.

"DataMirror Constellar Hub offers us high usability, management of metadata and the ability to schedule data transfers between systems 24 hours a day," says Roberts. "We are also able to rapidly deliver data warehousing solutions and data marts to our users as we have rapid access to the transactional systems as all data flows through DataMirror Constellar Hub."

From an organizational perspective, Scottish Power has seen considerable benefits from DataMirror Constellar Hub. In terms of efficiency gains, consultants from Ernst & Young conducted an audit of the Information Exchange project, concluding "the implementation of (DataMirror) Constellar Hub has achieved a return on investment of 237%, with a payback period on the entire cost of the Information Exchange project of one year."

## Conclusions

The Information Exchange based on DataMirror Constellar Hub has enabled Scottish Power to thrive in a dynamic business environment. The power to transform data irrespective of its origins into a common resource has given the Company the ability to

integrate any system. Data is now treated as a single, common resource that allows Scottish Power to better understand the needs of its customers and to continue to lead the multi-utility market.



DataMirror software is available on-line at [datamirror.com](http://datamirror.com) or call 1-800-362-5955

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