

Remploy and Forte

Multi-Dimensional Budgeting

Remploy is the UK's leading provider of employment opportunities for disabled people. It provides jobs and training in all parts of the economy - as well as its own factories. Working closely with Government programmes like Workstep and NDDP, it assists over 5,500 people with a range of physical and mental disabilities to find work every year. In addition, it supports 4,500 people in the employment of other organisations and over 5,500 people on its own sites.

With over 80 sites across the UK, they supply many of the top British companies with goods and services. Products include high-tech motor and electronic assemblies, school and college furniture, protective clothing for military and civil use and printing and packaging.

Remploy's growing presence in the service sector supports both commercial and manufacturing operations. Services include recycling of white goods and computers, back office services, and CCTV monitoring. The Managed Services division provides teams supporting the NHS and local councils as well as commercial companies such as Unilever.

Objectives

In previous years Budgets have been prepared using excel spreadsheets for data preparation, business budget build, company consolidation and reporting. The introduction of "product group" businesses rather than businesses defined by site ownership created technical problems in creating multi-dimensional phased budgets. This created a need to allow preparation by both "Site Owners" and Businesses.

The development of the "product group" Businesses with increasing multiple accountability, made it virtually impossible to design a suite of spreadsheets that would allow multiple on-line access and provide for consolidation at Business level.

Requirements

- Multi-dimensional budget input and rapid consolidation of Business and Company views.
- Building budgets at site level which allow multiple access to varying numbers of business users.
- Automatic phasing across periods based for example on number of employees and production weeks.
- Dealing with structural changes in a flexible way.
- Enable central input of routine base data - salaries, wages, headcount, depreciation, central costs.
- Reduce budget preparation and elapsed time.
- Deal effectively with balance sheet budgets.
- Exchange data with BAAN™ and operational spreadsheets.
- Transparency to executive, business management and senior departmental managers by the use of an audit trail of adjustments.
- Provide a basis for future business planning and forecasting.

Chosen Supplier

Forte was chosen as it met all the objectives. In addition Cyberscience had already established a good working relationship with Remploy and demonstrated their technical capabilities in meeting Remploy's management reporting requirements with Enterprise Cyberquery (eCQ).



The logo for Remploy, featuring the word "Remploy" in a stylized, blue, sans-serif font.



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Savings and Benefits

“One of the main benefits has been greater transparency of budget detail. Management is able to see exactly how any budget has been established. We have reduced reliance on spreadsheets and improved data accuracy,” said Alan Joynes – financial controller.

Implementing Forte will contribute to ultimate cost reduction and increased value added contribution from the Finance function. It has enabled the Business Accountants to focus on commercial issues.

In Operation

As each transaction is input the result is immediately reflected across all the different views required by management. In this way Forte has enabled Remploy management to monitor and control the build up of the budget.

Complex interdepartmental recharging and contra balancing have been created to meet the specific needs of Remploy. This has provided not only a Profit and Loss based budget but in addition has provided a budget of Balance Sheet and non-financial items such as head count.

Partnership

As with any large and complex organisation Remploy found during implementation that there were areas of the Budget Build system that required enhancement.

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