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STALIS IMPROVES PROJECT DELIVERY AND PROFITABILITY WITH ASTA TEAMPLAN

► IN BRIEF

Customer: **Stalis Ltd**

Industry: Data Management specialists for the healthcare industry.

Challenges: Their existing system, Microsoft Project, was not a fully integrated solution and was unable to support the company's growth and subsequent needs. The absence of 'what if' scenarios and a timesheet system that couldn't relate to projects or internal codes, left them with an inadequate system of limited use.

Results: A fully integrated system that can cope with all sorts of planning scenarios that enables individuals to work on multiple projects simultaneously.

▼ Real-time information enabling solid decisions, resolve of conflicts and forecast realistic timeframes.

▼ Clearer visibility, with better control of actual costs and timescales.

▼ Optimised resource management enabling balance on demand.

▼ Reports at a click of a button, keeping projects on target.

▼ Company wide expenses system using integrated timesheets, giving exact costs throughout the project life cycle.

Stalis, a leading UK healthcare data management company, has significantly improved its company performance and profitability by introducing Asta Teamplan as part of its project management methodology. Stalis aims to improve the way internal and external projects are planned and managed.

"We have completely revised our project management methodology since using Asta Teamplan," said Emma Jackson, Implementation Services Manager at Stalis. "As a result, we have clearer visibility and much better control of actual costs and timescales, which in turn, allows us to quote more efficiently."

► FINDING THE RIGHT SOFTWARE

Initially, when managing projects, Stalis used basic project management tools. Two years ago the company started using Microsoft Project to plan and manage projects. However, the software did not provide a fully integrated solution and thus would not have supported the business' changing requirements. With growth changing the dynamics of the company, Stalis needed to ensure it had the right project management tool that would grow with the company and provide the level of scalability required.

"We found that Microsoft Project was becoming less adequate in supporting the current and future needs of the company as it did not deliver the 'what if' scenarios we now needed. We also had a timesheet system but this did not relate to projects or code structures we used internally. So the need was to find something which did," said Emma Jackson. "We invited various project management companies to present their software and chose Asta Teamplan."

► THE DECIDING FACTOR

Stalis managed the selection by developing a list of requirements that included resource optimisation, cost control, revenue and margin tracking, as well as real-time management reporting.

"Asta Teamplan is a mature software tool based on modern technology and suitable for use by remote workers. It is very powerful and has a wide implementation

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base in different types of organisations across the country. We chose Asta because it met all of our criteria," explained Emma Jackson.

Over the last 18 months, Stalis has doubled in terms of staff and the operations department has undergone a structural review. A key selection factor that was identified was the need for a system that would support individuals working on more than one project simultaneously.

"Most people tend to work on more than one project and for different customers, as well as on a mixture of support and development work. This will change as the company grows and resources can be allocated exclusively to individual projects. However, at the moment one of the main challenges facing us, is balancing the demands for resources as we always seem to have more work to do than we have staff to do it," explained Emma Jackson.

"Asta Teamplan provides real-time information about projects, which enables us to make solid decisions, solve conflicts and forecast realistic timeframes. The system also can generate a huge array of reports, with just a few clicks, which is invaluable for helping us keep projects on target," said Emma Jackson.

▶ USING ASTA TEAMPLAN

Stalis uses Asta Teamplan as part of its project management methodology to assist in the planning and management of all external and internal projects. Users can

effectively monitor timescales and costs, as well as quickly report information to the Board.

Stalis also uses Asta Teamplan when planning new business projects for 'what if' scenarios. Asta Teamplan can cope with all sorts of planning scenarios and boasts unlimited baselines to test plans, unlike Microsoft Project, which is limited to ten. An Asta Teamplan baseline is also more useful, as it provides a copy of a project complete with all of the link and date variables. This differs from a baseline in Microsoft Project, which just lists dates of the original task.

Asta Teamplan has a range of functions that can be utilised elsewhere in the company and Stalis recently rolled out a

company-wide expenses system using Asta Teamplan and its integrated timesheet and expenses management software. The information can be accessed by the accounts department for paying expenses and also applied back to projects to give exact costs throughout the project life cycle.

"Asta Teamplan now underpins the way we run projects at Stalis. It has made a huge difference to the way we manage our projects, report to managers and directors and forward plan and manage our resources," concluded Emma Jackson.