

The Prostate Cancer Charity

Formed in 1996, the Prostate Cancer Charity is the largest and most comprehensive of the charities focused specifically on prostate cancer. The Charity funds medical research and provides practical support through its extensive information services.

“I am extremely impressed with the Dimensions solution and have spoken to many Charity organisations that are considering implementing Access Dimensions.”

Liz Ambekar
Director of Finance



Industry	Charity
Geographic	Hampshire
Employees	101-200
Turnover	£11-20m
Solution	Dimensions FocalPoint
Modules	Core ledgers Purchase order processing Sales order processing & invoicing Costing/project management Microsoft Office integration Executive desktop Invoice register Automated bank reconciliation Corrections Transaction broker

The challenge

The Prostate Cancer Charity was experiencing rapid growth and was on track to achieve its ambitious growth plan of a turnover of £8m by 2010. Liz Ambekar, the Director of Finance, knew that they would need to heavily invest in IT and implement a new finance system, as well as recruit extra staff to create the infrastructure required to support the organisation's ambitious growth plans. The Sage system that was already in place quite simply did not provide the level of functionality that would be needed.

The selection process

Liz formed a 'selection committee' which included members of both the Finance and IT departments, a budget manager and the Charity's Treasurer. In the first instance, the representatives from IT produced a

thorough technical specification and tender documentation was produced. The tender process took approximately 6 months.

A go-live date was set for April 2007, to ensure the new system would be up and running for the new financial year.

The Group initially considered a number of solutions, but eventually shortlisted three systems: Sun, Access Dimensions and the latest version of Sage. Functionality was absolutely key and after careful consideration the Group unanimously chose the Access Dimensions solution. Liz commented, "There were two main factors that convinced us to implement Access Dimensions. Firstly, cost. The Group felt we were getting more functionality for our money with the Access solution.

Secondly, everyone loved the look and feel of Dimensions. It was much more user-friendly than Sun or Sage”.

The solution

The Prostate Cancer Charity was extremely impressed with the functionality of the Office Integration module and this was particularly important in the decision to choose Access Dimensions. Integration with Raisers Edge was essential. Access could provide evidence of a track record in seamlessly integrating the finance solution with Raisers Edge in a number of other charities.

Reporting was a major issue, Dimensions provided the organisation with better quality, more in-depth, accurate management and budget facilities. This resulted in far better analysis, enabling the Charity to drill down further than its previous system allowed. Dimensions enabled the Charity to cut the data into seven different categories, and analyse and look at the data in many different ways.

At month end the system now allows the Prostate Cancer Charity to run four essential reports (based on accurate, real-time data) that can be drilled down and analysed so that each member of staff can obtain the information needed to make more informed business decisions.

The initial feedback from users is that they found the system easy to use, which meant that staff did not have to embark on extensive training courses. Liz commented, “I am extremely impressed with the Dimensions solution and have spoken to many Charity

organisations that are considering implementing Access Dimensions and partnering with Access. I am more than happy to share my experience and reassure them that their investment will be worthwhile”.

The future

Liz and her team are looking to further expand their Dimensions solution. Budget management is critical to the Charity. Liz explained, “I want to empower the Managers in the organisation to enable them to manage their own budget easily. In order to do this I need to be able to give each Manager access to the information they need, quickly and efficiently. Access executive desktop will help us achieve this, as it will provide the required information on each Managers’ desktop to allow them to drill down to whatever level of detail that they require.”

Liz also wants to implement several of the modules available within the Access Dimensions web-enabled suite, FocalPoint. This functionality will enable other remote users to access information online, which will save on costly postal services. Liz explains “FocalPoint will help us communicate information electronically to our office in Scotland. Instead of filling out forms and posting them, our users will be able to complete expenses forms and purchase orders via the web, as well as to be able to approve invoices on-line. “My goal is to change all that we are presently doing manually and generate everything electronically, it’s a big change and I will need to get buy-in from my other staff members, but I think it is essential and will enable us to further improve our processes”.

Who we are

Access will give you the advice, tools and clarity you need to make effective decisions, quickly and with certainty. As both a business-focused consultancy and a specialist software developer, we combine our innovative software with practical experience to deliver a solution that’s exactly right for you and your business.

You can rely on us to provide you with a solution that’s simple, proven and relevant to your company. We have over fifteen years’ experience of developing software here in the UK and our regional consultants have tailored and implemented this software all over the UK and Ireland. The expertise we’ve gained gives us an unbeatable ability to accurately assess your needs and deliver maximum impact with ease and confidence.

We believe your solution must be ready for the future, as well as right for today. Because your business will constantly evolve, we provide a software solution that grows with you. Our modular software covers a complete range of business, financial and administration processes and can be flexed to give you the precise view of your business that you need at any time.

Our supportive consultants combine their first-class software expertise with in-depth industry knowledge to constantly improve and simplify your business processes so that your solution delivers maximum value and a continual return on investment.

With Access, you can be sure you’ve got the clarity you need to reach your business goals.

Further information

For further information on this, or any other Access case studies, please telephone us on 01206 322575, email case-studies@theaccessgroup.com or, alternatively, visit www.theaccessgroup.com/downloads/case-studies.aspx