

Lifelong Learning UK adopts new finance system to improve reporting and automate daily accounting functions

Submitted by: TTA Communications (Bath)

Wednesday, 21 January 2009

Bristol, 21st January 2009 – bluQube (<http://www.bluqube.co.uk>), a leading vendor of financial management software, has been selected by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), a Government funded, independent sector skills organisation responsible for the professional development of those working in further education, higher education and community learning across England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland. The new solution will overcome the limitations of its incumbent proprietary system by delivering a high level of integration, real-time reporting and automation.

Executive Director at Lifelong Learning UK (<http://www.lluk.org>), Dr Tony Holloway said, "Our existing system simply wasn't producing the information we needed so we looked for a solution that could automate as far as possible the basic everyday financial processes, provide real-time reporting and allow us to devolve some of the accounting function to other parts of the organisation. We chose bluQube because it was far ahead of any other application we looked at in terms of an integrated product suite that was also browser-based.

"What we particularly liked was the fact that you don't need separate tools to extract information and there is no need to constantly update one system with another, as this is done automatically. We also have the ability to drill down to original scanned documents via the software without opening another separate application."

He continues, "There are a number of mundane tasks such as completing employee travel expenses, which we will be able to offer as a 'self-service' option to our users. Previously this was done manually and was not only time-consuming, but also had a negative effect on our staff morale. With the bluQube solution, which has been warmly welcomed by staff, they will have more time to concentrate on the more interesting and more productive elements of financial management. This will increase our efficiency and lower our costs as we expect much of the invoicing function to be paperless, including authorisation and payment".

The organisation has around 170 users and many of these employees will be given browser-based access to the bluQube system to interrogate budget and other financial information. This information will be available to them regardless of their location.

Dr Holloway concludes, "We have been very impressed with the support and service we have received so far from bluQube. We have a number of projects in the pipeline including integrating our CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system with the accounting system which will allow us to match our contacts such as FE Colleges, HE institutions and libraries and bring all their current information up on one screen. This integrated modular approach also means that bluQube will not only meet all of our requirements today, but will facilitate continued development of our systems as our requirements change in the future."

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Editor's notes:

About Lifelong Learning:

Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) is the independent employer-led sector skills council responsible for the professional development of all those working in community learning and development, further education, higher education, libraries, archives and information services, and work based learning across the UK. We represent the interests of the 1 million+ individuals working in lifelong learning in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and are the voice of employers in this sector on skills issues. The organisation employs 170 staff and has a turnover of £25M.

About Symmetry:

Established in 1996, Symmetry is a software company that specialises in the development and supply of business-to-business financial solutions within the UK. The company's core product, bluQube, is a fully integrated financial and management accounting solution aimed at organisations ranging in size from £3M turnover to £250M turnover and with user populations from 2 to 800+ users. www.bluqube.co.uk

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