

NHS Scotland to reduce reporting time from hours to seconds with Advanced's business analytics application

Submitted by: Advanced Computer Software Group Limited

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Leading software provider, Advanced has been selected by NHS Scotland to implement a powerful business analytics application in partnership with IBM.

The application will be rolled out across NHS Scotland's 22 health boards and will make significant reductions in financial reporting times with reports running in a fraction of the time compared to the previous solution, providing major time savings to the organisation.

The four year contract is worth £360,000 and will see the software provider delivering the IBM application, which is due to go live in August 2016.

NHS Scotland employs 160,000 people and has been using Advanced's financial management system, eFinancials to manage its general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable and procurement/stock activities across all 22 boards for the past three years. A number of the individual boards have been using the system since its launch in the 1990s.

Building on their successful partnership with Advanced, the organisation sought advice around business analytics processes in order to enhance speed of reporting and efficiencies. Advanced devised a solution using IBM's PureData technology that would provide analysts and accountants with access to real-time data without affecting the live operational database.

The new application acts as a gateway between eFinancials, which has around 1,500 regular users, and business intelligence solution Business Objects which is used to run the reports. Reporting requirements are now diverted to a mirror copy of the database.

Colin White, National Finance Systems Manager, NHS Scotland, says, "With our database size constantly growing, we needed a quicker and more efficient reporting solution. We explored various ways of doing this such as designing a datamart that only contained the data needed for reporting, but this would not provide access to real time data.

"We also looked at pointing our reports at a mirror image (Disaster Recovery) database which would at least divert the reporting away from our operational database but this would not provide the necessary level of improved performance that we were looking for. It wasn't until we approached Advanced that we identified a solution to this issue.

"We have been rigorously testing the new approach using Advanced's business analytics application and we found that we could generate reports, using any parameters we wanted, significantly quicker – with some reports generating results in seconds rather than hours. Not only that, but the data is being replicated in real-time so it is fully up-to-date, with data retrieval time improvements of around 50 to 500 times faster."

eFinancials is used to manage the organisation's finances with a number of national systems interfacing

into eFinancials including the NHS' procurement system PECOS, NHS Stock Management System (Red Prairie) and the National ePayroll System as well as a number of other local systems including pharmacy systems and local payment/receipting systems.

NHS Scotland has also previously implemented document management technology (powered by V1) to streamline its document handling processes including the use of V1 Capture within the accounts payable department. This technology integrates into eFinancials and electronically processes and archives around 5 million documents every year.

Colin White adds, "Like everyone in the NHS we have efficiency targets to achieve every year, and this new technology will address a key area where major savings can be made. By speeding up report production and improving access to real-time data, staff will spend less time on report running and more time on analysing the information produced.

"With data readily available at our fingertips, we will be able to use that information for more informed analysis, enabling us to drive performance across the entire organisation."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editor

For a logo of NHS Scotland please click here
(http://mediaserver.dwpub.com/press-release/tb_lrg/62030/nhs-scotland.jpg)
About Advanced

Advanced is the third largest provider of software and IT Services to the UK market.

Through our enterprise and market focused solutions we positively impact millions of people's lives through continually investing in our people, partnerships and own technologies to stay focused on our markets', customers' and their stakeholders' needs.

We enable our customers to drive efficiencies, savings and growth opportunities through focused, right-first-time software solutions that evolve with the changing needs of their business and the markets they operate in.

True partnership is the defining thing that makes us different from the competition. We pride ourselves on delivering focused software solutions for public sector, enterprise commercial and health & care organisations that simplify complex business challenges and deliver immediate value.

Advanced is a Sunday Times Top Track 250 Company 2015 and was ranked in the Deloitte UK Fast 50 which recognises the 50 fastest growing technology companies in the UK and a winner of the Tech Company of the Year in PwC's UK Tech Awards in 2014.

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