

CASE STUDY



Diamond Light Source Ltd is funded by the UK Government and by the Wellcome Trust. The company was established in March 2002 to build and operate the Diamond Light Source synchrotron facility. Diamond use Magnolia Enterprise Edition and Sceneric have assisted Diamond to extend their existing implementation.



THE ESSENTIAL LINK BETWEEN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

THE CHALLENGE

Diamond Light Source use the Magnolia Enterprise Edition Content Management System (CMS).

When Diamond asked Sceneric to assist them with their project, Diamond already had an extensive suite of applications deployed within the Magnolia framework. Diamond's technical staff realized that the modularity and flexibility of their existing Magnolia implementation, which was used on their web sites, could be extended to add significantly improved and coherent additional functionality to their User Office applications.

Diamond Light Source had an existing paper based process for the scheduling of the many different scientific teams who use the Synchrotron located at their installation in Oxford. Diamond identified that there was a need to move this registration and results process online in order to streamline the existing process, save time and reduce cost. The system also needed to ensure results from experiments conducted at the facility could be shared throughout the scientific community in an effective manner.

Building an online system that users with little experience of web publishing could use was key to the success of the project. Diamond identified that extending Magnolia was the natural choice.

THE SOLUTION

The existing business process involved the filling out of many paper based forms and the organisation and scheduling of time in the synchrotron by the User Office.

Over time the User Office has found it more and more challenging to process and manage the ever increasing number of scientific users using the Synchrotron. For each scientist who visits Diamond, a large collection of paperwork is required to be completed and processed.

"It was fortunate that Magnolia informed us that Sceneric was their implementation partner in the UK, and we have profited from their expertise in the product, technical competence and management to build the additional applications required."

*Bill Pulford
Head of Data Acquisition
and Scientific Computing*

The solution, which was identified by Diamond, involved moving these forms online. Sceneric deployed a single consultant who concentrated on providing an application that

offers considerable functionality yet with screens which are intuitive and easy to use.

The consultant adopted an iterative development methodology from day one to ensure this occurred. Meetings with stakeholders were held on a weekly basis to refine requirements, ensure their latest feedback was incorporated and ensure the latest features were included.

THE RESULT

The process has now been transformed from a collection of static pages to a homepage where users are able to complete all the relevant forms. Finance are also presented with the minimum information they need to ensure user expenses are managed and processed quickly and efficiently.

In addition to functionality expected of most CMS's, the Diamond Magnolia team, of which Sceneric are a part, has facilitated straightforward content searches for the marketing department, expenses approval and workflow. This has all been done with extensive code reuse.

The result is that the User Office is now able to, at a glance, see on their home page a simple colour coded traffic light system which clearly indicates which proposals require further work.

About Sceneric

Sceneric is an IT Services Company that specialises in designing and building innovative software for the Financial Services industry. Sceneric delivers a seamless, compelling and valuable straight through processing experience to product providers using a broker distribution model. The Company fulfils this strategy by providing fully integrated systems and products installed on site or delivered. To learn more about Sceneric, visit www.sceneric.com or call +44(0)8445 678 720