

Win Release

Marcroft Engineering

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Since their early days as both 'Wagon Repairs' and 'Rail Car Services,' Marcroft have undergone much innovative change and now offer a complete rail management package.

The company have a £20m turnover and are a wholly owned subsidiary of Brambles - the Australian conglomerate.

Tom Jones the IT Manager at Marcroft comes from a strong IT background. He has been chief programmer within a range of industries and was the Development Manager at the then "Rail Car" until he came to his current position of IT Manager with Marcroft.

A decision was taken by the board in 1996 to replace their ageing PICK system and CCL were enlisted to produce a

requirements list and manage the project.

This was undertaken over a twelve month period and some 20 potential suppliers were contacted.

A thorough investigation of all suppliers was undertaken and a short list of companies was drawn up, with the aim of moving away from a Bespoke System to a Package System.

Advanced Business Solutions were selected to be the prime contractor for all the hardware, software and the networking for the whole of the UK. Open Logistix Systems are the author of OpenLogistix, a fully modular supply chain solution, managing all types of inbound / outbound logistic and value added operations.

The products (Open Logistix, OpenAccounts and OpenPeople) are all 'best of breed', using leading relational database technology and are fully integrated with Microsoft products.

"Advanced Business Solutions was not the cheapest, but what it did allow us to do was to reduce our numbers in IT and make users more responsible for their data.



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The first of these two stages was in April of 1997 to install OpenAccounts. The project was managed and conducted to both cost and schedule. Tom Jones said of the Project Management:

"Our meetings with the Advanced staff were excellent, their staff were enthusiastic and the project management was first class."

The second stage, in February of 1998, was to install OpenLogistix, with a 90% fit. This £750,000 order was implemented exactly to budget, a classic project with Advanced Business Solutions acting as Prime.

About Business Solutions

Advanced Business Solutions, an Advanced Computer Software Group plc company, provides leading integrated business applications and services that enable public, private and third sector organisations to retain control, improve visibility and gain efficiencies whilst continually improving corporate performance. It's award-winning software systems comprise core financial management, procurement, human resource and payroll systems, integrated with a range of collaborative, document management and business intelligence solutions . It also provides managed and bureau service options.

Advanced Computer Software Group plc is the UK's leading supplier of software and IT services to the health, care and commercial sectors. It comprises 3 main divisions and has 7000 customers and 800 staff worldwide.

For more information

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