

Balfour Beatty successfully migrates bespoke OpenVMS product design system to Windows

Application migration prompted by ongoing and increasing maintenance costs, and the inherent risk of running a business-critical system on a proprietary platform.

At Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, we are one of the UK's premier contractors, offering a complete capability in the design, supply and construction of overhead transmission lines and underground electrical transmission and distribution systems. Operating in multiple markets, including energy, rail, public and industrial sectors, we also offer specialist services in the fields of telecommunications and wireless networks, Callender-Hamilton bridges and street lighting.

The Challenge

Our Chief Engineer, Alan King, comments, "Our DEC VAX hardware required a major upgrade, and there was obviously the ongoing and increasing maintenance costs, and inherent risk of running our business-critical product design suite on a proprietary platform."

The Solution

Advanced initially conducted a PathFinder Project in order to assess the scope and complexities of the project, and then used their OpenVMS migration toolset to automate the majority of the ALGOL and Fortran code migration from the DEC VAX OpenVMS legacy mainframe to an open and more flexible Windows Server environment. Alan adds "Advanced's proven migration methodology and initial PathFinder process helped us to analyze the

migration before we even started, and gave us the confidence that Advanced was able to handle this complex project. Up front they provided us with a firm cost for the entire project, and delivered the migration to this budget."

Major Benefits

The migration of the product design application has ensured we can continue to enjoy competitive benefits and an increasing return on investment. In addition, no retraining for users was required. Alan King comments, "With our migration to Windows we were able to deploy the application on a far more cost-effective platform, while ensuring we could maintain the competitive advantage we gained from this bespoke system."

Alan concludes, "Right from the initial contact, our experience of working with Advanced has shown them to be very professional. Their analysis of our requirements, tried and trusted migration methodology and ability to resolve the inevitable technical issues that arise on a project of this complexity successfully enabled us to migrate this critical system to a more cost-effective platform. This allows us to continue to run and enhance it in a modern Windows environment."



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Sector >

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Project >

Application Migration