Cranfield University

Postgraduate specialist makes cost savings of £1 million (and counting)

Cranfield creates leaders in technology and management, unlocking potential by partnering with business and governments to deliver transformational research, postgraduate education and professional development.

The Challenge

Cranfield’s aging ERP system wasn’t coping with existing pressures. Other expected challenges — such as changing regulatory and compliance requirements, new fee and funding models, management and process reorganizations, and increasing competition — added to an urgent need to find a better solution.

How did Unit4 help?

We not only worked as partners to provide the right software capabilities but, crucially, Cranfield gained genuine ownership. Its own teams can implement and keep adapting the solutions to meet changing needs; end-users can carry out sophisticated, flexible reporting themselves — all without expensive external IT support.

Achievements

Agility and independence
The team no longer needs external and ancillary IT resources, to implement and adapt the system to change.

Improved operations
Supported by the Unit4 ERP solution, Cranfield was able to evaluate and undertake a major campus consolidation.

Efficiency and governance
Finance staff can access the information they need and deliver reports using any device, from any location, and at any time.

“...because of the horrific cost and maintenance issues. The beauty of installing these Unit4 solutions is that we can use our own internal implementation staff. We, don’t have to hire or pay for the usual software vendor army of highly priced, external ERP consultants.”

Ian Sibbald, Director of Finance, Cranfield University

Impacts

Benefits include:
- Ongoing annual savings of £90K
- 20 days of expensive external IT consulting saved each year
- More than £1,000,000 accumulated savings

INFO
INDUSTRY: Higher Education
SIZE: 1,650 employees
LOCATION: UK
PRODUCT: Unit4 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)