

Construction Computing

Gone Fishing?

Bigfish counts the cost of wasting resources on the worksite

A Spell Of Wizards

Acta Easyplan

Hard Hats and Laptops

Glendale Housebuilders use Buzzsaw

Design for the Future

Arta 3D Asset Management



Sport for All!

If you find yourself sitting in a brand new stadium watching football, baseball or athletics, then the chances are that HOK Sports Venue Event Group had a hand in it - assisted by Deltek's Vision



Feeling a bit raw and isolated without a home nations team to support in Euro 2008? Or perhaps you are delighted that you can watch some football without the usual hype and premature euphoria that always accompanies our teams team abroad? No matter! We may not be much good when it comes to playing the game, but there's a team of world-class architects working in the UK with a global company that designs and constructs premier sports stadia worldwide, whatever the sport; football, baseball, athletics - you name it!

Although part of the American HOK Sports Venue Event Group, the world's leading public assembly design firm with offices on three continents, HOK Sport in the UK is bursting with talent and expertise, and has fronted some notable venues, including Wimbledon, the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club,

the new Emirates Stadium for Arsenal FC, Ascot Racecourse and, of course, the design for the new Wembley Stadium.

With an expanding portfolio, clients around the world and a need to maintain its leading position in the field, HOK Sport Venue Event felt that they needed to bring their management capabilities up to the same high plateau by integrating their core business functions. "We were feeling the effects of not having vital project information linked across service lines and offices," said Bob Gillcrisp, former HOK Sport Venue Event principal and now senior vice president at HOK Group. "We couldn't make timely and accurate business decisions because project management wasn't linked to marketing, accounting or resource management."

HOK Sports Venue Event is established in three different continents, with offices

in Brisbane, Australia; London, England; and Kansas City, Missouri, and the company's 350 employees had to rely on time-consuming and inefficient processes for sharing key client and project related information. The three offices were not using the same systems, and up-to-date business data - and access to it - was limited. "We basically used spreadsheets to plan and manage our projects and staff," Gillcrisp continued. By the time HOK Sport Venue Event's end-of-month reports were completed, they were two weeks into the next month.

THE NEED

Recognising the need for a fully automated enterprise management solution that would help them take their operations to the next level, HOK Sport Venue Event began the search for a single, integrated solution that could streamline operations, allow worldwide Web-based access to the most up-to-date financial and project information, and accommodate geographically diverse projects of all sizes. Perhaps most importantly, the company required just one system that would enable them to monitor and manage all projects throughout their entire lifecycle, from winning new business to post-project analysis.

Having investigated a number of different options, HOK Sport Venue Event purchased Deltek Vision, web-based enterprise software designed to integrate end-to-end business processes for project-oriented firms of all sizes. The software was delivered in 2002, and the company completed a full implementation in less than four months.

Today the firm uses Vision to track hundreds of projects, valued at over \$6 billion. "From small consulting service projects of a few thousand dollars to projects over \$400 million, Deltek Vision enables us to efficiently manage multiple aspects of our projects," Gillcrist said. "Vision integrates project management, resource planning, client relationship management and project and financial accounting tools, so projects can be better tracked and controlled."

VISION BENEFITS

Since choosing Deltek Vision, HOK Sport Venue Event has noted substantial improvements in efficiency across many areas of the company, including the ability to make company-wide information immediately available to everyone who needs it. With Web-based Vision, valuable client and project information is always online, enabling managers to make confident, on-the-fly, updates for the company whenever necessary.

"We now have real-time access to opportunity and project costs, so we don't have to wait for monthly updates to make decisions," said Debbie Frederiksen, HOK Sport Venue Event marketing manager. "More than 25 marketing users, including principals in the firm, make periodic updates to our opportunities information centre, so the information is always there to view and analyse."

The same immediacy is available to HOK Sport Venue Event for end-of-month project and financial reports, which can be accomplished by a single person in three days. Before the implementation of Deltek's Vision, the same job required three people working for two weeks to gather and compile the data for analysis.

Deltek's flexibility has also enabled the software to be set up to reflect the way a company works. "Accounting for A/E firms is not standard accounting," said Karen Luttrell, HOK Sport Venue Event accounting manager. "Deltek solutions are very much designed around the way we do business, allowing us to do the things we need to do."

The ability to compile reports from online data is also a tremendous asset, enabling end-users to produce reports in minutes from their laptops. "Our reporting capabilities are greatly expanded now that we have the flexibility to generate, and share our own reports or use one of Vision's report templates. We are able to analyse the data in many ways as needs arise," added Luttrell. "We no longer have to request and wait for reports from the corporate office, which greatly reduces the time needed to process our business information and make decisions."

FRIENDLY USER INTERFACE

HOK Sport Venue Event executives credit their high end-user acceptance to Deltek Vision's intuitive interface. The entire implementation took less than four months and over 250 employees were trained on the Time Collection module in just two days. "We cycled employees through training sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, and by Friday we had closed out the timesheet period," said Gillcrist. "Very impressive."

For HOK, a Deltek accounting software client for more than 10 years, the reasons for selecting Deltek Vision as their full enterprise management solution were clear: "Deltek Vision allows us to manage our business at peak performance levels because it was clearly designed around the way we do business," said Gillcrist. "We've been using Deltek products because Deltek works with us, listens to our needs and then designs solutions to address our challenges."

Deltek, the leading provider of enterprise application software for project-oriented businesses, provided the ideal solution for integrating HOK's widely dispersed offices - and, of course, the teams on the ground, wherever their sports venues are under construction. Covering many other industries as well, Deltek has assisted more than 12,000 companies worldwide in the last twenty years to measure their business results, optimise their performance and streamline their operations.

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