

fact sheet Mouchel Parkman

Enterprise Collaboration licence agreement

Mouchel Parkman is a professional support services group. They help clients in the public sector and regulated industry to provide better everyday services to customers and communities. A rare combination of professional, commercial and technical expertise enables them to improve their clients' strategy, services, people and asset management.

Key Information

- Mouchel Parkman have chosen Business Collaborator Ltd as their preferred supplier of Collaboration and Extranet software under an enterprise agreement.
- Initial enterprise licence for 500 users in May 2006 extending to 1000+ over the next 12 months.
- Previously worked with Mouchel Parkman's Strategic Highways division to develop bespoke automated numbering system for M25 Sphere document management system.
- Initial projects include Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative for Dorset County Council, Highways Agency Area 10 MAC and Shrewsbury TIF Project.

Background

Since August 2004, the Strategic Highways division of Mouchel Parkman have used Business Collaborator (BC) on projects, in particular on the M25 Sphere for the Highways Agency. They recognised early on that they required a document management system in order to improve collaboration on projects and save time wasted locating correct document versions. A web-based system would be of great benefit for those members of the team working away from the office environment, enabling the efficient sharing and retrieval of information. BC Solutions worked closely with the M25 Sphere team to develop a bespoke automated numbering system that would remove the need for someone to manage their central list of document ID numbers, and also the need to have document logging books at each office.



This allows users to deal with a single system rather than interacting with several independent systems.

Prior to migrating all projects documents onto the system, they assessed their existing procedures and standardised on document naming conventions and improved their work instructions. They particularly appreciated the flexible approach to document storage, with BC supporting both traditional folder based structures together with unstructured collections, which are ideal when large numbers of documents need to be uploaded to a system.

Files uploaded in this manner are tagged with project-specific metadata labels and values, such as project stage, document type (correspondence, drawing, etc), or originating company, allowing them to be easily located by other users who might not be familiar with a projects folder structure.

BC Solution

In 2006 the Mouchel Parkman Group decided to embark upon the search for a suitable group-wide project collaboration system, and, after reviewing several products on the market, eventually decided that, due to its success within the Strategic Highways division together with its flexible commercial model, BC was a natural choice. The high degree of configurability available from using project-specific metadata and workflows together with the choice of document storage methods were also key differentiators as they could see how BC would benefit a range of different projects managed by different business streams.

Mouchel Parkman purchased an enterprise licence with initial roll out to 500 users, although it is envisaged that the system will grow to 1,000+ users within the next 12-18 months. They have chosen a client-owned dedicated server hosted by Business Collaborator Ltd configured to their needs and giving them many of the benefits but none of the infrastructure costs of a self-hosted server.

A number of projects (across multiple business streams) will be added to the server in the next few months, with the first being a Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Project in conjunction with Dorset County Council and Alfred McAlpine amongst others.

In addition to its existing role as a central document repository system for the Strategic Highways division, Mouchel Parkman are now able to take advantage of BC 5's latest functionality on every project across their organisation, including document publishing, issuing and review. As part of this process, multiple documents are uploaded onto the system using the Document Processing Wizard, tagged with metadata (to help identify and categorise them) and issued to the correct recipients in one step. Recipients can view and comment or markup drawings using the integrated viewing tool without having specialist applications such as AutoCAD installed.

Key Features

- Successfully used within Strategic Highways division as centralised document management system with version control and audit history of every action performed on documents.
- Web-based system enables team members working away from the office to work more efficiently.
- Previously developed bespoke automated numbering system that removes the need for someone to manage central list of document ID numbers, and also the need to have document logging books at each office.
- Non-prescriptive approach to document storage supporting both traditional folder based structures together with unstructured collections of 'tagged' documents.
- A flexible approach to licensing and hosting allows Mouchel Parkman to choose options to that best suit their current and future needs.

Key Benefits

- Improved collaboration on projects especially for site-based teams.
- Reduced reliance on email for document distribution of documents cut the time previously spent locating latest version.
- Reduced administrative burden on teams and allowed users to deal with a single system rather than interacting with several independent systems.
- Enterprise licence encourages use of collaboration on all projects within the group, no matter how small.
- Client-owned dedicated server hosted by Business Collaborator Ltd configured to their needs and giving them many of the benefits but none of the infrastructure costs of a self-hosted server.