

Balfour Beatty successfully migrates bespoke OpenVMS product design system to Windows

Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty faced ongoing and increasing maintenance costs, and the inherent risk of running a business-critical system on a proprietary platform. With the migration of this application to a far more cost-effective platform they are seeing an increasing return on their investment.

The Customer

Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions is one of the UK's premier contractors, offering 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, Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions also offers specialist services in the fields of telecommunications and Wireless Networks, Callender-Hamilton Bridges and street lighting.

The Challenge

"Our DEC VAX hardware required a major upgrade", said Alan King, Chief Engineer at Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, "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

We initially conducted an Advanced PathFinder

Project in order to assess the scope and complexities of the project, and then used our 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 2003 environment.

"Advanced's proven migration methodology and initial PathFinder process helped us to analyse the migration before we even started, and gave us the confidence that Advanced was able to handle this complex project," adds Alan King. "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 Balfour Beatty continues to enjoy their competitive benefits and an increasing return on their 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

Client >

Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions

Sector >

Construction

Project >

OpenVMS Application Migration

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we could maintain the competitive advantage gained from this bespoke system."

Tim Jones of Advanced added: *"Companies like Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, with applications on ageing legacy platforms, have three options. They can rewrite their code from scratch, replace with a package, or migrate. Balfour Beatty, like many other companies, found that migration proved the most cost-effective, minimum disruption and least-risk option."*

Alan King 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, allowing us to continue to run and enhance it in a modern Windows environment."*

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Alan King >
Chief Engineer >
Balfour Beatty Utility
Solutions

More information

w oneadvanced.com
t +44(0) 8451 605 555
e hello@oneadvanced.com

Ditton Park, Riding Court Road, Datchet, SL3 9LL

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