

**26 November 2001****135/01****Crown Prosecution Service's I.T. success**

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has successfully completed an 18-month project to modernise I.T., electronic communication systems and the office environment for 5,300 operational staff across 100 UK sites. The project, called Connect 42, was rolled out to the CPS' 42 Areas across England and Wales on time and within budget.

The project goals ñ to increase IT literacy levels among CPS staff, to enhance communications internally throughout the CPS, externally across the Criminal Justice System and to other government departments ñ have been achieved. The system effectively 'joins' the 42 Areas, allowing the electronic sharing of information between sites.

In early 2000, less than 20 per cent of the CPS had access to I.T. systems. Assisted by an award from the Government's Capital Modernisation Fund, the 25 strong CPS team of internal staff and experienced consultants, planned and managed the procurement and installation of the infrastructure throughout the roll out.

Lonny Carey, Director of Business Information Systems, CPS, said: "This was a huge project and I am very proud of my team and the contractors who have delivered it on time and within budget." Connect 42 has seen the implementation of new desktop systems throughout the CPS, providing Windows 2000, Microsoft Office 2000 professional, Windows Exchange Server 5.5 and Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.0 to provide secure access to external networks via Government Secure Intranet (GSI), the Criminal Justice Extranet (CJX) and the Internet. Users also have access to legal reference material, the existing legacy case tracking systems and a prototype Intranet which provides standard forms and manuals.

After competitive tender, the CPS selected Integris to provide the I.T. architecture, system design, implementation, a full service desk, classroom training and desk-side support service including Virtual Tutor, and desktop maintenance capabilities. The CPS chose the Windows 2000 software supplied by Microsoft who also helped with skills transfer and risk mitigation. Global Crossing was selected to supply the wide area network (WAN), and Workplace by Design to provide the space planning, design and installation of new office furniture for the I.T. system. Bull Information Systems Limited provided much of the I.T. hardware.

Integris

As well as installing workstations on each desk, Integris rolled out a training programme for all 5,300 users. This was supplemented by the 'Virtual Tutor', which provides training-on-demand delivered through Integris' helpdesk services. Users can contact the service desk to request specific training, observe a demonstration on their own workstation and then try it themselves under the supervision of qualified trainers.

"Connect 42 has demonstrated that I.T. can begin to support 'joined up criminal justice'. We're working with the Government to identify the gaps in systems and software architecture so we can adapt and create interagency systems that work simply and effectively," said Gary Young, Head of Government and Criminal Justice Division, at Integris.

Microsoft

"Microsoft's involvement in the CPS project is an extension of the company's relationship with the Public Sector in its efforts to achieve joined-up government targets," said Jenny Duff, Industry Manager for Public Sector at Microsoft. "The solution will not only have a dramatic impact on the way CPS communicates internally, but also lays the foundations for a more integrated approach to administering justice, offering more composite links with other government agencies' systems."

Global Crossing

Underpinning this desktop environment is a managed Wide Area Network (WAN) from Global Crossing. Global Crossing have provided a new secure IP infrastructure as part of the overall modernisation programme, which runs alongside the existing network service that already connects 48 CPS offices.

Mark Longstaff, Director Government Markets Europe, Global Crossing, said: "The managed network connections delivered by Global Crossing between CPS offices and other government agencies are central to the provision of an effective, joined-up Criminal Justice System (CJS), through closer interaction of the CPS and its CJS partners. Our IP network architecture provides secure, reliable network services upon which Connect 42 relies to provide efficient e-government for UK citizens."

Workplace by Design

Ian Hodson, Implementation Manager at Workplace by Design said: "The surveying of the sites, production of the plans and provision of new furniture was a major supporting part of the project and the fact it went so smoothly allowed the installation of the I.T. equipment and the training of the Crown Prosecution Service staff to proceed exactly as planned. The improvements to the working environment have been favourably received by staff."

Notes to Editors

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About the Crown Prosecution Service

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is the principal prosecuting authority in England and Wales. It advises the police on possible prosecutions and takes over prosecutions begun by them. The Service employs around 6000 lawyers, caseworkers and administrative staff, who are responsible for the preparation and presentation of criminal cases at court. In 2000-2001 the CPS dealt with 1.35 million cases in magistrates' courts and 116,000 cases in the Crown Court.

About Integris

Integris offers a complete range of services, from consulting and systems integration

through to support services and outsourcing across Europe. As a European IT services leader, Integris' mission is to apply the best technologies to deliver its customers' business objectives.

Integris combines an expertise in domains of innovation, such as Internet, e-business, and Customer Relationship Management (CRM), with a focus on major business sectors: finance, manufacturing, the public sector and telecommunications. With a staff of 10,000 present in over 100 countries, Integris is already among the first ten IT services companies in Europe with an annual turnover of Å1.7 billion in 2000. Integris works with the largest European enterprises and government agencies to help them to meet the challenges that market dynamics bring.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software ñ any time, any place and on any device.

Note to editors: If you are interested in viewing additional information on Microsoft, please visit the Microsoft Web page at <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/> on Microsoft's corporate information pages.

About Global Crossing

Global Crossing Ltd. (NYSE: GX) provides telecommunications solutions over the world's first integrated global IP-based network, which reaches 27 countries and more than 200 major cities around the globe. Global Crossing serves many of the world's largest corporations, providing a full range of managed data and voice products and services. Global Crossing operates throughout the Americas and Europe, and provides services in Asia through its subsidiary, Asia Global Crossing (NYSE: AX). Please visit www.globalcrossing.com or www.asiaglobalcrossing.com for more information.

About Workplace by Design

Workplace by design is a comprehensive interiors service for the working environment, from work needs analysis, through interior design, space planning, supply of furniture to complete interior fit outs.

Workplace is a main dealer for a number of leading manufacturers of desking, seating, partitioning and storage, which is sourced from leading American and European manufacturers. Workplace is a customer service focused organisation, which provides a national service through its experienced and skilled workforce based at its southern and northern offices.