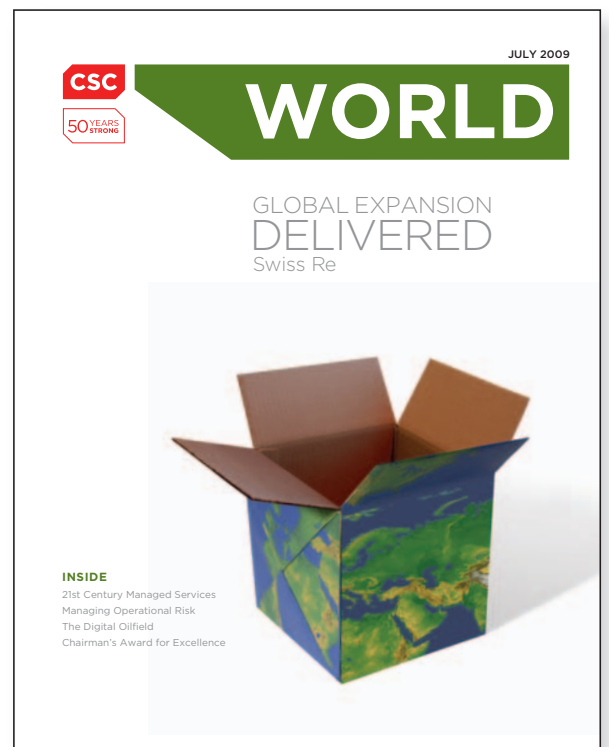


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CLEANING UP THE UK'S NUCLEAR INDUSTRY



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CLEANING UP THE UK'S NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

by Phil A. Muldoon

Under the Energy Act of 2004, the UK's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for decommissioning and cleanup of the UK's public sector nuclear sites. Magnox Electric Limited, which manages 10 of these sites for NDA, needed a partner to help them accomplish this important task quickly and securely. Because of our experience in the highly regulated nuclear industry, Magnox teamed with CSC to begin the process at eight of their sites.

“Working in partnership with CSC, we smoothly transitioned into the new operational structure on schedule and to budget. The program of work also implemented a number of innovative solutions to address specific issues relating to aging infrastructure and systems,” says Ian Lewis, head of Information Technology, Magnox North Limited.

Client: Magnox Electric Limited

Challenge: To meet government standards and deadlines for decommissioning of nuclear sites, Magnox Electric was required to separate into two Site License Companies — each with its own infrastructure and applications — in a timely and secure fashion, with minimal downtime.

Solution: A separation plan co-developed with CSC, which migrated servers, data and applications while keeping services running smoothly. Magnox Electric's data center was moved into a CSC data center.

Results: Higher bandwidth, a 50 percent reduction in costs and a 400 percent increase in capacity.



A huge task

A key element of the NDA's strategy is to introduce competition into the UK civil nuclear industry, to stimulate improved performance and bring in new ideas and experience. As a Site License Company (SLC) to NDA, Magnox Electric Limited was required to separate into two companies — Magnox North Limited and Magnox South Limited — each assuming management of five of the 10 sites previously managed by Magnox Electric.

The separation of Magnox Electric into the new SLCs entailed massive changes at many levels — including organization, processes, infrastructure and applications — that would affect all of Magnox Electric's activities and its 5,000 employees.

The NDA imposed a timeline for completion that Magnox Electric had to meet without compromising safety or operations. Magnox Electric took overall charge of the program, but needed a partner to handle separation of the infrastructure and applications, and who would be able to minimize downtime and meet the stringent security requirements laid down by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS).

Given the sensitive nature of the industry, Magnox Electric could not risk disruption to operations during the project. Regulations governing the nuclear industry meant that safety, security and data integrity could not be compromised, and that the resulting infrastructures had to meet OCNS accreditation standards. And in order to get paid, Magnox had to meet the NDA's deadlines.

Magnox chose CSC to handle the infrastructure and applications separation, based on our experience of working in the highly regulated nuclear industry and our record of meeting security standards and deadlines. Magnox also required CSC to interact with its in-house IT teams, and to carry out the program of work within the overall framework of the organizational separation program.

The CSC solution

Magnox Electric was already familiar with CSC's in-depth knowledge of its operations and our experienced personnel. As a result of our long-term outsourcing relationship with former parent company BNFL, we were already managing the Magnox Electric infrastructure and most of its applications. This existing working relationship enabled a fast startup, shaving six months off project duration.

CSC and Magnox Electric first defined the project, worked through the specification and carried out a detailed cost analysis, ensuring that business issues were clearly understood and translated into an appropriate technical implementation.

During the planning and design phase, CSC accommodated many of the changes and additions requested by Magnox. Our technical teams worked overtime as they migrated servers, data and applications while keeping services running smoothly.

Security was paramount to this project. CSC ensured that data integrity was maintained, and that the two separate networks we created for Magnox North and South were kept secure.

A key element of the separation project was the creation of a new CSC-managed data center for Magnox North, located within an existing CSC data center. More than 50 new servers were installed, and significant amounts of Magnox data was encrypted, copied onto physical media and moved, meeting strict OCNS guidelines for data handling.

Once separated, the two networks and the CSC infrastructure had to be OCNS-accredited. As Magnox North was the first SLC in the UK to be accredited under the new format, it had to work with the OCNS to ensure that processes were in line with OCNS guidelines.

Our consultants guided and collaborated with Magnox through this crucial work stream. Governance was a key to the project's success. By tightly coupling our governance structures — aligning project roles and responsibilities, project plans, risk and security management — and by instituting joint steering groups and jointly executing the project, we were effectively able to function as a unified project team. This ensured timely delivery against each stage of the project plan, and efficient handling of issues as they arose.

Tangible business results

The CSC solution has enabled Magnox North and Magnox South to operate as separate entities, each with its own OCNS-accredited network and CSC support infrastructure. The NDA has thus been able to continue pursuing its competition schedule, which involves putting SLC management contracts out to tender by new parent companies.

The separation into Magnox North and Magnox South caused little or no disruption for the 5,000 end users, even though the project touched every aspect of the infrastructure. Critical Magnox applications, such as the Fuel Monitoring System that keeps track of the location of all fuel, were migrated with minimum outage, ensuring that Magnox could continue with business as usual.

Rather than building a data center from scratch, Magnox North chose to locate it within a CSC data center, saving £200,000 in setup costs, and reducing annual related costs by over 15 percent, equivalent to £50,000 a year. By sharing CSC Internet connectivity at the data center, Magnox North is benefiting from higher bandwidth and cost reductions of 50 percent. A new remote access system has grown capacity by 400 percent — without increasing costs. ●

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With the broadest range of capabilities, CSC offers clients the solutions they need to manage complexity, focus on core businesses, collaborate with partners and clients, and improve operations.

CSC makes a special point of understanding its clients and provides experts with real-world experience to work with them. CSC is vendor-independent, delivering solutions that best meet each client's unique requirements.

For more than 50 years, clients in industries and governments worldwide have trusted CSC with their business process and information systems outsourcing, systems integration and consulting needs.

The company trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CSC."

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