

Case Study



Syplex supports IT expansion at Celltech Group

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Conor MacGinley – IT Operations Manager, Celltech.

Introduction

Celltech was founded in 1980 as the UK's first biotechnology company. By 1987, it had consolidated focus on the discovery, development and manufacture of novel therapeutic products and in 1993 was listed on the London Stock Exchange. Celltech Chiroscience was formed in August 1999 by the merger of Celltech plc with Chiroscience Group plc to form one of the largest biopharmaceutical research and development companies in Europe.

In January 2000 the merger of Celltech Chiroscience plc with Medeva Plc created Celltech Group plc - a substantial integrated biopharmaceutical group. The group employs over 600 research and development staff based on four sites in the UK and US, and over 550 sales and marketing staff in the US and Europe.

The Challenge

Syplex Ltd has had an extensive relationship with the Celltech Group with both Simon Foote and Jonathan Rushton, Directors of Syplex, undertaking a large number of IT consultancy projects for both Chiroscience and Celltech. Conor MacGinley, IT Operations Manager at Celltech Group, explained the company's requirement:

"Celltech uses external IT companies as required to supplement our own team. There were, as you would expect, numerous projects that needed expertise we did not necessarily have in-house during the hectic periods of merger, acquisition and divestment in the late 1990s and beyond."



Key Features:

- Long-term partnership
- Handling at senior level of IT issues surrounding large-scale mergers
- High level of technical expertise.
- Diverse range of desktop and networking projects implemented and supported
- Support provided worldwide



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The Solution

Syplex has undertaken a number of key projects for the Group, including:

Desktop Migration

Jonathan Rushton was initially appointed to lead a desktop migration project for Chiroscience - installing Windows NT4/MS Office 97 as a replacement for Windows 3.1. The project included migration from MS Mail to MS Exchange, implementation of ZenWorks as the desktop management system and integration with Netware file servers. A phased rollout to 180 users across four sites was successfully undertaken.

Post Merger Technical Integration

Subsequently, Jonathan led the Celltech Technical Integration team after the merger with Chiroscience, handling the many complex issues required to integrate the company's IT systems. This role was later extended to include the integration with Medeva following the subsequent merger.

Active Directory

Jonathan has also provided Celltech Group in Cambridge with technical consultancy for a migration from Windows NT4 to Windows 2000 with Active Directory. This solution included the implementation of Intel Landesk as the group standard for desktop management, with design and roll-out to approximately 1800 desktops.

Time Recording

Simon Foote had successfully implemented the Accounts system for Chiroscience and was subsequently asked to provide a timesheet system so that research resources could be accurately monitored. The system has since been developed to include web-based recording and reporting.

Desktop Fax

Simon has subsequently implemented a number of IT projects including a desktop fax system fully integrated with MS Exchange, a holiday card system and a number of other small development projects.

Contract Support

Another Syplex consultant is also working extensively at Celltech's head office in Slough providing IT support services.

The Benefits

Conor MacGinley has no doubts about the value of the relationship with Syplex:

"All the Syplex people we have met have exceptionally high quality skill sets. They are widely respected for their expertise within Celltech and have no problem fitting in as needed with our own teams. The longevity of the relationship with them is testament to how much we value their contribution, both during the high pressure accompanying the mergers and during the recent periods of consolidation. They have been a highly valuable resource to us, both on small ad hoc projects and on the long-term ongoing basis. Jonathan, in particular, played a key role in the restructuring of our global IT teams during the merger with Chiroscience and has remained a core part of our team since then.

Syplex has the advantage of offering complementary skills – covering the networking and desktop areas in both breadth and depth. That range has been particularly valuable to us, as we have become larger and more sophisticated in our requirements. We regard Syplex as technical experts whose abilities and opinions are highly valued at all levels in our IT team. The long-term relationship we have developed with them has enhanced their value well beyond the normal supplier relationship, as there is no learning curve for them either technically or in terms of our working practices and processes".

For further details on how Syplex Ltd can help you achieve your IT objectives:

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Or visit: www.syplex.co.uk