

Case Study

Adams
DESIGNING THE FUTURE



Background

Adams Consulting Engineers is a structural civil engineering practice based in Melbourne, undertaking a wide variety of projects across Australia. These projects can range from large scale commercial projects to modest residential designs. Established in 1991 as a small team of talented structural and civil consulting engineers, Adams Consulting Engineers has used its engineering expertise to bring hundreds of projects to life. In just five years, Adams Consulting Engineers has grown from a team of 15 to 40 staff in Melbourne and continues to prosper with offices now in Sydney and Geelong.

Company

Adams Consulting Engineers

Business

Consulting Engineer

Number of staff

40

Solution

Union Square for AEC Professionals

Challenges

Adams Consulting Engineers was growing and as its success increased, so did the demand for high quality, reliable information that could help manage and monitor projects from inception to completion.

Previously a centralised company database was used to capture contact details, basic project information and staff timesheets but nothing was integrated. The same data was being entered into multiple places while emails, documents and drawings were being saved to traditional network drives with reliance on individuals saving correctly and on time. This made it more difficult and time consuming than necessary to search and track both data and project information. Furthermore, with the growing number of projects in progress at any one time, analysing the financial performance of projects and managing resources was becoming increasingly difficult for senior managers and project leaders.

Solution

The senior management team wanted a tool that could help manage and monitor its projects from inception to completion. The tool would replace and extend beyond existing systems and spreadsheets, meeting the overall objective of providing a more efficient, streamlined and integrated approach.

“A key factor behind the decision to invest was choosing a solution that could support the company’s plans to grow.”

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They were seeking a system that could encompass all aspects of project management, including managing project financials, in a reliable and consistent environment. Union Square for AEC Professionals offers practices this level of control. By integrating all areas of the business, it makes the comprehensive management of information easy.



A key factor behind the decision to invest was choosing a solution that could support the company's plans to grow across multiple offices while maintaining a standardised way of working. Union Square will help Adams Consulting Engineers build for the future rather than simply provide a short term solution.

Implementation

The practice wanted everyone to start operating with the system as quickly as possible, but understood that change can take some time for people to adjust to. With this in mind, the timesheet module was implemented first to allow users to become familiar with the new system. Users quickly became proficient with this aspect and additional functionality was introduced progressively.

Benefits

Key benefits:

- **Streamlined processes** – A considerable amount of time is being saved on administrative tasks, allowing fee earners to focus on project work. Data duplication and entry errors have also been significantly reduced.
- **Resource Forecasting** – Project leaders now have complete financial visibility of a project. The company has the ability to effectively manage its financial information while juggling lots of different projects. With early warning signs being flagged up, it allows the company to take action based on actual statistics rather than hunches.
- **iPhone Access** – The ability to access information on the go is a fantastic benefit for any practice. With this module, Adams can get real time access to a range of information from any iOS device. It also gives the practice the capability to search for documents, making it easier to access information when out of the office.
- **Revit Connector** – By using this 'add-in' for Autodesk Revit, significant efficiency gains have been generated. It acts as a bridge for Adams between Revit and its Union Square system. The quality of output is improved and it enforces practice-wide efficiency in design, production and distribution.

Contact us for more information on all our product offerings and how we can help transform your approach.

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Your knowledge. Together.

A Q&A with Heather McWhinney Practice Manager

How have you found working with Union Square?

Because Union Square was relatively new to Australia we weren't sure what the level of support would be like. However the level of customer support has been fantastic, the team at Union Square have been very helpful and people are always available to talk through problems, and provide relevant examples of how things can be improved. They really considered our 'pain points' and business processes, to assist us in coming up with solutions to suit our business.

What plans do you have going forward?

With Union Square we now have a flexible platform with a development roadmap that we are confident will serve our long term requirements. We have currently implemented most of the system, but are looking forward to expanding on the use of some additional features.

How did you find people took to using the new system?

The change to Union Square went very well. This was partly down to how user-friendly and intuitive the system is as well as providing constant communication across the practice, so everyone knew what was going on at all times while feeling involved.



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