

Numis Securities Uses MindLink's Business Critical Collaboration Platform to improve cross-team collaboration in the office and on the move.



“We needed a collaboration platform that was accessible in the office & on the go, offered superior integration with our existing systems and met stringent compliance requirements – MindLink came highly recommended”

*Simon Bailey,
Director and Head of IT &
Operations
Numis Securities*

About MindLink

MindLink is the only purpose-built **Business Critical Collaboration** platform that allows teams to coordinate and exchange **vital business information** rapidly across the business.

MindLink is designed to help people work together **faster** and **smarter**, so they can make **critical business decisions** more effectively.

MindLink can be fully integrated into existing process and software applications. It is used by clients, including some of the largest global financial institutions, to enable **better communication** and improve **team efficiency**.

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Numis Securities replaced its legacy communication system with business critical collaboration platform from MindLink, providing the investment bank with increased flexibility, improved communication and tight process integration across the business.

Founded in 2000, Numis Securities Ltd. is an independent investment banking and institutional stockbroking company, and trading subsidiary of Numis Corporation Plc., whose shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

The firm, which provides a premium integrated investment banking service to corporate and institutional clients, is headquartered in London. The company's 176 employees provide a range of capabilities (research, institutional sales, market making, corporate broking and corporate finance) across 15 different market sectors focussed on UK equities.

The scene

Competition amongst mid-sized brokerage firms is fierce. To succeed, a firm needs a highly specialised workforce and the tools & technology that allows them to access real-time market updates, industry news and internal data, and collaborate easily across teams. Compliance mandates require the enterprise to record certain conversations, making it critical that any communication & collaboration platform meets stringent regulations.

The need

To gain a competitive edge, Numis was in need of a platform that would allow real-time critical collaboration across the company, especially between teams such as trading, sales, research and corporate broking.

The platform would need to be flexible and have an interface that is familiar to the user to encourage adoption. Enabling remote access was crucial - catering for users on the go, as was the need for fully-fledged integration with existing systems e.g. CRM, Outlook etc.

Simon Bailey, Director and Head of IT and Operations outlines the rationale: “The nature of our business requires a sophisticated collaboration strategy; and persistent group chat functionality is a key enabler to achieve this. Replacing our incumbent product with an agile and intelligent platform is a great investment for our business enabling us to provide a better service to our clients.”

The answer

Numis needed to firstly move away from its legacy platform (effectively an end-of-life product which became much harder and more expensive to support after being moved into maintenance only mode by the product owner). By doing so, it could reduce on-going maintenance costs and improve flexibility. Numis made the decision to implement Microsoft Lync as the underlying platform, but needed a strong and purpose-built tool for business critical collaboration to add to it. MindLink led the migration onto the new Microsoft Lync platform, and in addition, provided Numis Securities with several best-in-class collaboration tools.

Patrick Coelho, who manages the infrastructure support team at Numis Securities comments: “There are very few collaboration platforms available that meet the stringent persistent and searchable requirements that we need.

MindLink came highly recommended by our peers and following initial meetings, we could see how their platform would not only meet compliance mandates, but also give our business a real step forward in terms of real-time team collaboration, fast access to critical information and improved decision making.”

“MindLink is making our business more agile. Feedback from our teams has been extremely positive and we’ve noticed improvements in responsiveness & workflow processes.”

Simon Bailey
Director & Head of IT & Operations

The firm made the decision to implement **MindLink Anywhere** (MindLink’s web client), **MindLink Mobile** (across the Blackberry platform), **MindLink for Outlook**, **MindLink Email & Social Connectors** and the **MindLink API** to connect to its custom built internal systems. MindLink enables the teams to set up dedicated chat channels by topic e.g. by team, client, sector. Trading teams, analysts and sales can now share information whilst in the office or on the move via their mobile.

The MindLink Connectors ensure that data from social media, email as well as internal line-of-business systems (notably CRM), are fed automatically into the respective chat channels ensuring that nothing ‘falls through the cracks’. MindLink’s unique filtering & alerting features further improve their experience.

Last but not least, Numis was won over by the look & feel of the platform and found it intuitive and straightforward to navigate - meaning little training was required and their user base migrated to it very easily.

“In terms of implementation,” Coelho explains, “we implemented MindLink in a big bang fashion across, following a couple of dress rehearsals. MindLink managed the process very efficiently and provided seamless continuity of service.”

“The MindLink platform, gives us a real step forward in terms of flexibility around remote access and integration with other tools. This will directly impact our bottom line”

Patrick Coelho,
Infrastructure Manager

The outcome

Today, all areas and the majority of employees of Numis Securities are using MindLink with user adoption at an unmatched level. The platform proves particularly effective for inter-office communication in the fast moving trading environment. Here are some examples of how Numis uses MindLink:

- *Per sector chat channels to discuss focussed research and trading idea.*
- *Critical discussion channels around new accounts, new deals and to strategize around focus areas*
- *Mergers & Acquisitions discussions on the news wire - monitoring reactions, sentiment, strategies and targets*
- *Support channels to offer dealers assistance in case of any impediments to trading*
- *Risk arbitration chat channels to gain clarification on models, pricing and deal settlements*
- *Back office communications to carry out end of day reporting for regional offices*
- *Trading system monitoring & alerts posted to chat rooms for support functions to react and solve any issues*

“To put it simply, MindLink are helping our business to become more agile. Feedback on the platform is extremely positive across the teams and the company has noticed big improvements in collaborative information sharing, and workflow processes already, particularly the integration of MindLink and CRM, and the provision of mobile access. The flexibility that the mobile access gives the company – coupled with tight integration with its other tools - means employees and teams are now able to function much faster and more intelligently. This gives us a great competitive edge – and positively impacts the bottom line.

What’s next?

Numis Securities is continuing to develop its use of MindLink across the business to further improve collaboration across teams and projects – especially in the mobile area. The company is currently evaluating the use of MindLink Tablet for use with their iPad devices.

MindLink Benefits

Integrated Business Processes	External social data and internal information from CRM and Email allows for better, more informed decision making and collaboration
Lower total cost of ownership	Experienced support teams & low maintenance compared to previous platform
Collaboration ‘on the go’	Information is accessible from anywhere leading to improved productivity & faster decision making
Outstanding Usage Uptake	Intuitive look & feel with familiar design allows for easy navigation & usage
Improved productivity & efficiency	Result of effective real-time team collaboration, increasing revenue potential