

## Case Study

# BAM Construct UK



**BAM Construct UK has been building in the UK since 1874. From offices and schools, to research labs and museums, it delivers bespoke design, construction and facilities management services to customers across England, Scotland and Wales.**

The company has strong customer service values, and aims to improve the experience of the people who use its buildings as well as aligning itself to customers' goals and expectations.

BAM Construct UK has a reputation for integrity and reliability and delivering high quality sustainable buildings on time and to budget.

*"The COOLSPIRiT solution delivers much better value for money."*

Shaun Maistry, IT Project Leader

## Challenge

To turn a building from concept to reality requires a large team of in-house staff and external partners, all of whom need access to business critical data and highly available IT systems in diverse environments.

As Mark Planner, Senior IT Infrastructure Analyst at BAM Construct UK explains, "Our storage infrastructure underpins everything we do, from email and client planning to document management and design plans."

When BAM Construct UK's storage platform began to reach full capacity and end of life, it needed to find a new solution to prevent poor performance causing business disruption.

"Many of our clients operate in the public sector, so we need to ensure we can comply with requirements around document retention and version control," adds Shaun Maistry, IT Project Leader at BAM Construct UK. "With our existing systems reaching end of vendor support, it was imperative to find a solution that would minimise risk and keep our staff operational during the transition."

## COOLSPIRiT™

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## Solution

BAM Construct UK started by assessing its existing storage platforms and determining whether they needed replacing, or could be upgraded. A vendor-neutral consultant advised that both storage area networks (SANs) were replaced to ensure good interoperability.

BAM Construct UK then enlisted COOLSPIRiT's help to ensure the project ran smoothly. "We selected COOLSPIRiT as I'd worked with the company in the past on a storage replacement, and we'd always worked well together," recalls Planner. "Based on our requirements, the team proposed a solution comprised of a Nimble storage array and Brocade switching. The solution not only met our budget but also our functional requirements, and it was very straightforward to use."

COOLSPIRiT provided informed technical advice, as Planner explains, "COOLSPIRiT's experience meant they were able to clearly explain the solution's functionality, its benefits to us as a business and how it compared to other similar products."

COOLSPIRiT went on to help throughout the project lifecycle, from sales engagement, pricing and sourcing through to implementation and project management.

Together, COOLSPIRiT and BAM Construct UK successfully implemented the new storage infrastructure and migrated its data onto the new platform.

*"To add more capacity to our old system would have cost us a third of our overall investment, without any of the benefits, the COOLSPIRiT solution delivers much better value for money."*

**Shaun Maistry**, IT Project Leader

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## Benefit

BAM Construct UK now has a storage solution with greater capacity and up to five times better performance. "When you work in a diverse environment, being able to get documents to people faster is a huge bonus," adds Planner. "Unlike our previous solution, it's also extremely simple and straightforward to use and has minimal rack space, cooling and power requirements."

The solution also has accessible reporting facilities that allow the company to make smarter plans, "We can predict when we'll need more space based on our current growth," affirms Planner.

By migrating to a new storage platform, BAM Construct UK has enabled cost-avoidance savings.

As BAM Construct UK grows, it now has the flexibility to manage acquisitions without having to worry about the impact of adding large datasets to its infrastructure. Meanwhile, its staff can enjoy uninterrupted access to the IT systems that empower them to bring their customers' visions to life.