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**Product: *Data Academy***



A key element of our strategic vision for the IM & BI Department was to be able to build an enterprise data management solution and for it to be an in-house project that we owned.

While this was our vision, we were acutely aware of our limitations in terms of staff, budgets and timescales, but we were suitably knowledgeable to understand that projects of this nature are significantly bigger and more complex than may appear on the surface. If we were going to be successful, we needed assistance. Having been exposed to the capability of Data Academy and the Data Space Frame (DSF) architecture, we knew that this was what we needed to be successful: it took away all of our concerns.

Our project was based around developing the solution using the Data Academy DSF architecture and building it using the Data Academy development platform. However, to ensure success and deliver on time and within budget, we worked jointly with the guys at Insource. Their involvement with the project was to help us get up to speed quickly; teach us how to use Data Academy and derive the benefit from the use of DSF; and stop us going off track.

Data Academy enabled us to be significantly more productive in the development of the solution, and DSF brought so much in terms of proven, thought-through techniques, architectural designs methodologies, standards and conventions. Pretty much everything you need for a successful project.

A great thing for us is that this initial project was not only a great success, but we were able to meet our strategic vision of self-sufficiency.

What transpired after this project was probably the greatest success – in that we successfully migrated from our old PAS to our new PAS with minimum disruption, and were able to keep our enterprise data management solution in place. Prior to the migration, we talked to the guys at Insource for guidance. They confirmed that we should be able to undertake this ourselves, as the DSF-based architecture of our data management solution had specific inherent design features to enable it to be moved from one PAS to another.

Insource's approach is really refreshing. The people there just know what they're doing, they know so much about data warehousing and the NHS, they're really easy to work with, and you learn from what they know.

They're not possessive about their products – they lay them open and expose them to you so you can use them. I think their ability to do this is borne out of their confidence that their products work. And they do – they're just superb.

We were honest enough to know we couldn't achieve what we wanted to by ourselves, and we were fortunate enough to have chosen the Insource Data Academy development platform suite. As such, we have realised our goal.

