



TF is King in The Kingdom of Fife!

The Technology Forge are extremely pleased to announce that Fife Council have chosen to implement the integrated Asset Management System, tf. facility. With over 2,200 non-housing assets worth an estimated value of £650M, the system will enable Fife Council to manage their corporate asset data through a single integrated software system rather than relying on disjointed systems that currently work in isolation across various departments.

Fife Council had very specific requirements revolving around a need to incorporate several functions in to one core system, including Condition Surveys, Estates Management, Whole Life Asset Costing, Planned Maintenance, Reactive Maintenance and Project Management along with output links into CAD and GIS. Described as a 'one stop shop' solution, tf. facility is a user-friendly system which Fife Council felt confident would be easily utilised by all their system users.

The new contract has formed the basis of a strong working relationship between The Technology Forge and Fife Council, to ensure that tf. facility continues to develop in line with Scottish Authority requirements. David Gardner, Asset Management Planning Manager said, "Fife Council were impressed by the customer facing approach adopted by The Technology Forge. Fife Council look forward to embarking on this key Corporate project, working together with The Technology Forge in developing an effective asset management information tool". Winning the contract is highly significant for The Technology Forge confirming that tf. facility is indeed an ideal match for Scottish Authority requirements.



Norrie Mclean, David Gardner, Adam Watson and Alan Paterson

Current Software Developments

The Technology Forge are committed to continually developing and enhancing our integrated product suite to keep up with the latest technology and clients evolving requirements. The latest products to be added to our integrated product suite includes GPRS and we have developed a web based Suitability module in conjunction with BCC:

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• Suitability via the web

The Technology Forge worked with Birmingham City Council (BCC) on a recent project to deliver Suitability via the Web. The solution was developed in line with BCC's requirements, as they employed a number of consultants to resurvey all schools on a room-by-room basis. The information collected was specific to BCC's needs but the data was to be ultimately outputted into a format consistent with the DfES guidelines.

• GPRS

The current functionality of the handheld software has been enhanced to develop a handheld data application which enables surveyors to transfer survey data anytime, anyplace, anywhere, from the handheld directly to the tf. facility database. This is achieved using the latest GPRS enabled handheld devices (XDAs) or mobile phones and promotes a flexible way of working remotely via a safe and secure environment. The main advantage of such an application is that surveys can be downloaded and completed whilst out on site, eliminating repeated trips back to the office.

... Stop Press ... Contracts Awarded

Gloucestershire County Council has chosen to implement the *tf. facility* software solution to assist with their Corporate Property Management and Asset Management Planning. The recently awarded six figure contract will enable Gloucestershire CC to manage their corporate data from a central system with *tf. facility* integrating into the council's current systems and interfacing with existing components.

Gloucestershire CC had very specific requirements, including the preparation of DfES and ODPM reports, their rural estate's farming needs and integration with CAD and ESRI

GIS systems. With *tf. facility* the Council will incorporate several different functions in to one core system, including the survey modules (DDA, Condition, Suitability, Sufficiency, Hazard), Estates Management, Asset Register, Planned Maintenance, Project Management, along with integration into existing CAD, GIS and financial packages.

Mike McCullough, Business Implementation Manager for this project states, *"After a year long tender process, the Council are pleased that they have chosen the right asset management system to meet the varying business needs of the au-*

thority. tf. facility will undoubtedly improve our asset management planning and the management of the Council's estate."

Doncaster MBC recently expanded *tf. facility* to include the Estates Management module as part of their AMP strategy.

City of Liverpool has chosen to work with The Technology Forge to manage their CAD plans for all their Junior, Primary and Secondary schools. The project includes updating the CAD drawings and uploading these into the *tf. facility* system in preparation for future Suitability and Sufficiency submissions.

Why FMS UK Ltd chose *tf. facility*

"...tf. facility is a very robust product, it helps us to control our business competitively and we have received excellent ongoing support from The Technology Forge"

"We have the core The Technology Forge product, *tf. facility*, including the Helpdesk. Facilities Maintenance Services (UK) Ltd (FMS (UK) Ltd) is a Facilities Management, Project Management and Quantity Surveying Company and we use *tf. facility* to manage facilities across multiple properties nationwide. We have had the system for three years and chose it for three main reasons".

"Firstly, cost and value for money, which was important to us. Secondly, we developed an excellent relationship with the staff at The Technology Forge as they had an open, friendly approach which, as non - technical people, we found helpful. We had as

much trust in the people and the team as we did in the product. Thirdly, the look and feel of the system, which is based on Microsoft Windows Explorer, made it very easy to use. *tf. facility* helps us control a multi million pound FM budget for our business. The standard core package is very good but we had some bespoke work done to produce an electronic interface into a client.

"We spent some time building it and it worked seamlessly when it was installed. The system enables us to split our budget in a range of different ways and pull off variations of reports. We are currently upgrading to the Web based version, which will increase the

efficiency of our operations and enable numerous client benefits. IT is a massive driver in the FM business which has moved rapidly from Dos to Windows to Web online, although in our experience the percentage of the market currently working totally online, is very small".

"The market is very competitive, particularly in the commercial retail and leisure sector and our cost advantage comes from our use of IT. *tf. facility* is a very robust product, it helps us to control our business competitively and we have received excellent ongoing support from The Technology Forge".

Nick Hutchinson, Operations Manager, Facilities Management (UK) Ltd, PSR Issue 28

National 'Capital of Enterprise' Awards

Having won the Regional 'Enterprise in Britain' award, Leeds City Council has selected The Technology Forge to feature in their entry into the National 'Capital of Enterprise' competition. As part of their entry into the National competition Leeds City Council wanted to feature successful busi-

nesses in and around the Leeds area so came to the offices in Otley to shoot a video. The video focussed on the history of The Technology Forge, the success of the Company and the future of the business in terms of growth internally and externally within the market place.

AMP for Conwy County Borough Council

The primary function of the Property Services Department at Conwy County Borough Council (CBC) is to provide a service to meet all the County's property needs. Conwy CBC owns and manages a large property portfolio valued at over £200 million and they are responsible for the maintenance of a range of properties from promenade shelters to castles.

As part of the management of such a portfolio Conwy CBC had an existing property management software system already in place but were looking to replace this with a system that offered extra functionality. Conwy CBC took this as an opportunity to review the market place and looked in depth at The Technology Forge Asset Management Planning (AMP) system, tf. facility. As a result The Technology Forge were awarded the contract to provide Conwy CBC with a fully integrated system. The need for software with a familiar desktop and close output links into Excel were key factors in the decision to implement tf. facility. Furthermore, we are people whom Conwy CBC felt able to work closely with.

Primarily Conwy CBC wanted to implement a new System to not only facilitate the management of their property portfolio but also to help them address a number of key issues:

- Their existing Capital Accounting System did not provide all the desired functionality
- The current Help Desk system was a problematic paper based system so they wanted to streamline their whole Help Desk operation with a long term goal of making it available over the web
- They required a better method for tracking orders and commitments made to properties A reduction in the time taken to issue and agree contract amendments.

As well as initially fulfilling the Corporate AMP criteria the Education Department also required a system to help them make their Suitability and MOE (More Open Enrolment) submissions to the Welsh National Assembly.

The Technology Forge fully integrated product suite was imple-

mented to address both the immediate and future AMP requirements of Conwy CBC, comprising:

- tf. facility to incorporate all the required functionality including Condition Surveys, Finance, Help Desk, Estates Management and Suitability Surveys
- Integration into the existing standard CAD (AutoCAD) and GIS packages (MapInfo).
- Web capability for future development, to enable selected users to access/view relevant AMP data when required and log help calls via a web browser#
- An MOE (More Open Enrolment) module was developed in line with CLAW (Consortium Local Authorities Wales) so that the required submissions could be made to the Welsh National Assembly with ease.

The partnership between Conwy CBC and The Technology Forge has proved to be very effective and continues to be successful. A number of additional functions have already been implemented to the existing software and further functionality is planned.

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Introducing the Team

Name: Richard Bevan

Position: Senior Developer

Richard joined The Technology Forge in April 2000 and has been with the Company for nearly 5 years. Richard started out as a Software Developer and currently focuses on software design, development and Project Management.

Other new appointments within the Company over the last 4 months include:

- James Kemp-Support Analyst
- Chris Amess-Software Developer
- Rodgers Svovah-Software Developer
- Andrew Hudson- IT Support Engineer

