



MANUFAX MAKES IT POSSIBLE

The Manufax group is a major contributor of precision engineering to the aerospace, automotive, nuclear and agricultural industries.



FACT FILE: Manufax, established 50 years, are a Stockport based specialist engineering group with a global reputation for delivering on important projects. The group works for many of the world's leading engineering companies, including; BAE, Lockheed Martin, Agusta Westland Helicopters, GKN Aerospace, Bombardier, BNFL, Bentley, Airbus, JCB & Caterpillar. Manufax also designed and produced vital tooling for Richard Nobles Bloodhound land speed world record attempt.



THE CHALLENGE

The Manufax IT network infrastructure was due for a refresh and there were some major ongoing issues that were seriously impacting on operations:

- Core IT network infrastructure operating speeds were slow, systems ran slower than expected and impacted on users throughout the business.
- Existing Broadband services were insufficient and superfast terrestrial services hadn't reached the locality. The slow, existing service took an age to download engineering files and caused production delays on the engineering shop floor.
- Security compliance is paramount when working with most Manufax clients and existing services required taking to another level to ensure the company achieved compliance for the foreseeable future and to improve monitoring and control measures.
- The group, operating from several locations, had separate standalone phone systems at each site with limited functionality and out of step with the high tech, high performing markets in which they operate. Staff were unable to see whether colleagues were on or off-site, or available, calls couldn't be transferred between sites and caused inconvenience to callers.
- As part of the network infrastructure refresh, Manufax addressed a requirement to focus on improving operations. Delivering a forensic approach to business KPI's and achieving significant operational and shop floor efficiencies. A new ERP system and server was envisaged and Manufax needed independent and expert assistance to specify and deliver the solution.

THE BLOODHOUND MISSION



The Bloodhound is created using jigs produced by Manufax

The Bloodhound project is an attempt at the land speed record by a team headed by Richard Noble OBE. The car, currently in manufacture, is anticipated to break the land speed record and go on to exceed 1000 mph. The project is supported wholly by business sponsorship and is being used as a vehicle to introduce engineering as an exciting and dynamic career choice to school children and to inspire a new generation of engineers. Over 5500 schools have become involved.

As a proud project sponsor, Manufax have designed, manufactured and installed the lower chassis assembly fixture for the project.



WHY SERIUN?

"Serium provided the most pro-active response and competitive proposal. Right from the start they've added value, demonstrated a professional approach and maintained the high standard of care."

“ SERIUM HAVE RESTORED CONFIDENCE IN OUR IT AND PROVIDED A PLATFORM TO TAKE OUR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND TAKE ON MORE SPECIALISED WORK. ”

David Baines | Operations Director, Manufax





THE WINNING SOLUTION



Manufax manufacture key components for the Airbus A350XWB airliner

THE APPROACH

The initial project objectives were to stabilise Manufax' IT systems then replace network elements to eliminate core issues. Once that was done the network was re-engineered and new systems and services introduced to achieve Manufax long term goals for improved network and operational performance.

On this foundation we could then start the project to deliver the new ERP systems and achieve Manufax's long term goals.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT MANUFAX WERE VERY SIMILAR TO MANY SITUATIONS WE SEE IN OTHER BUSINESSES. ONCE WE HAVE DELIVERED OUR ON BOARDING PROCESS, WE AIM TO BECOME OUR CLIENTS' IT PARTNER.

Justin Sherwood | Managing Director, Seriu

THE DETAIL

- A thorough audit of the existing IT infrastructure was followed by a project to maintain and re-configure systems including the replacement of several existing switches with Cisco SG220's to improve their network operating speeds.
- Replacement of the slow existing broadband with a wireless broadband link from Metronet supported by corporate grade SLA. It has the flexibility to increase/decrease speeds dependent on demand which produces cost savings during low demand periods.
- Installed Cisco and Meraki based security hardware and services provide a more secure and controllable environment for compliance and monitoring.
- Microsoft Office365 rolled out group-wide to give a more connected, updated and versatile way to work and collaborate by enabling anytime, anywhere access to programs for improved productivity.
- A group-wide IP based Samsung phone system was installed to overcome all previous issues and provide added value Unified Communication features to enhance and future proof communication between site based, mobile, internal and external users.
- Seriu helped specify the ERP solution and advised on vendor selection to ensure Manufax's technical requirements would be satisfied. Seriu then supplied and installed the server and project managed the ERP installation to completion.



Part of the Bloodhound project team in the wind tunnel



THE RESULTS

"Before Seriu took care of our network we suffered three instances of complete downtime for a total of five days lost productivity. To date after 22 months of excellent service we have suffered no downtime.

PC users now have fast and reliable access to their programs anywhere, broadband and telecoms costs are predictable. Our communications are what you'd expect from a high tech industry. With the new ERP system in place, underpinned by effective and reliable IT, we can now focus on the measurement of engineering KPI's and delivering operational and shop floor efficiencies for optimal performance."

David Baines | Operations Director, Manufax



WE ARE NOW AT THE STAGE WHERE WE WORK CLOSELY WITH SERIU TO SHAPE AND DELIVER STRATEGIC PROJECTS. THEY'VE BECOME A VALUED AND TRUSTED SUPPLIER.

David Baines | Operations Director, Manufax

