

PRODRIVE SUPPORTS GROWTH WITH UPGRADE TO LATEST VERSION OF IFS APPLICATIONS™



COMPANY GROWTH REQUIRED SINGLE STANDARD PLATFORM

Prodrive was using an unsupported and modified version of IFS Applications 2003; this solution did not support the expanding business, which had grown to consist of five sites within one instance. Prodrive's aim was to implement the latest version of the IFS software, initially as a 'business as usual' implementation, which would then allow them to take advantage of technical and functional improvements in IFS Applications 9.

During 2016, Prodrive required a complete implementation of IFS Applications at their two geographical locations, across eleven sites and 250 users. Cedar Bay and Prodrive developed a program to move from IFS Applications 2003 to core IFS Applications 9. The key issue was that the existing platform was unsupported at a technical and functional level, with many modifications to the old version being badly documented. Additionally, hardware and other elements of the infrastructure were also unsupported. It was vitally important to the company that the upgrade improved the chart of accounts and reconstructed cost centers, providing better reporting and traceability. The growth of the company has led to five, individual businesses being established within a holding company structure. Prodrive aims to run these five separate businesses in a single IFS Applications instance, introducing consistent processes across the businesses wherever appropriate.

THOROUGHLY PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION KEY TO SUCCESS

Cedar Bay worked with Prodrive to develop a plan that delivered the implementation of IFS Applications 9 over an eight-month period. The plan consisted of four significant stages:

• ESTABLISHING THE PROJECT DEFINITION

The approach was to deliver a 'business as usual' solution as a first go-live: each current element of functionality was identified, and a training plan established for the new functionality changes in each area. Where significant changes had been made to the software, the Cedar Bay functional consultants worked with the Prodrive project team to develop the new processes.

• SOLUTION OUTLINE AND DEFINITION

The way that IFS Applications was to be used was workshopped and established, resulting in an approved solution outline document. Detail was then added to each process step, followed by several iterations of testing and piloting to ensure the developed solution would meet Prodrive's business needs.

• DATA MIGRATION AND CLEANSING

Cedar Bay provided the technical resources to migrate data from the existing IFS installation to the IFS Applications 9 environment. The Prodrive team identified redundant and obsolete data so that only current data was moved across. The migration was complex and required several iterations because of the way that IFS has modified how data is handled over time.

• CUT-OVER PLAN

Once the solution had been tested, a detailed cut-over plan was finalized, including creation of the training materials, data migration, end-user training, basic data setup and go-live weekend tasks.

ABOUT PRODRIVE

Prodrive is a world-leading motorsport and technology business. While perhaps best known for motorsport, today it is just one part of an organization that has diversified to become a technology business, working in a range of sectors with operations in Banbury and Milton Keynes in the UK, employing more than 500 staff. The company has five individual businesses within a holding company structure.

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ABOUT CEDAR BAY

Founded on delivering automated data collection and mobile device solutions, Cedar Bay helps companies around the world streamline and simplify their business processes using IFS Applications™. Cedar Bay has been providing consultancy and support services as an IFS Partner since 2010. With a detailed knowledge of the IFS ERP solution, Cedar Bay became an IFS Channel Partner in 2016, selling and implementing new IFS business.

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Cedar Bay 



The operational expertise that Cedar Bay's consultants provide was crucial to the success of the project as it evolved. It was also important that, in adapting to the upgraded software, the Prodrive management team could adopt a positive and forward-thinking approach, fully recognizing the need to alter the way that the company operated internally, using the standard 'best practice' approach that IFS Applications 9 offers.

Cedar Bay helped us through every step of the process for our IFS Applications implementation. Their experienced team was instrumental in providing invaluable functional and technical consultancy to complete the move to IFS Applications 9.

Alex Harwood, Prodrive IT Manager

BUSINESS AS USUAL IMPLEMENTATION

The focus was to deliver a 'business as usual' implementation of IFS Applications 9 using standard software with no modifications. This step-change enabled Prodrive to have a supported IFS solution and infrastructure. It was also necessary to standardize the processes across the businesses wherever possible. To achieve this, emphasis was placed on training the project team and the end users in IFS Applications 9 functionality. Prodrive created a dedicated cross-business team with a project manager and support from IT and, despite changing manager mid-project, the allocation of these key resources was a huge contributory factor to success. Prodrive also invested time in data cleansing: all data being transferred was identified and cleansed prior to transfer. The company also restructured much of its static data, such as the chart of accounts and cost centers where the new structure better supported its needs.

Prodrive has now been live with IFS Applications 9 for over a year, and the benefits of having a supported solution are in place. Before, the business was vulnerable to security attacks, with much of the infrastructure unsupported. There were no modifications carried forward from their old version of IFS Applications and the standardized solution allows much simpler and more rapid support resolution. The processes have been standardized, and with the changes to the chart of accounts and cost structures the business reporting and visibility is greatly enhanced. Since going live, Prodrive has greatly enhanced the user experience via the use of lobbies based on job roles and also added extra queries to provide data as required.

NEXT PHASE: EXPLORING THE DEPTH OF IFS APPLICATIONS

Now that the system is delivering the initial benefits (having implemented a substantial cross-section of the IFS Applications functionality), the company is currently embarking on Phase II of the project, giving it the opportunity to turn on additional features that are available in IFS Applications 9. One of the first areas is to enhance the use of the project functionality within the business, with Cedar Bay supporting the review and development of processes in this area.



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BENEFITS

- Standard supported infrastructure with no modifications, which allows them to take future releases of IFS Applications quickly.
- Increased flexibility from use of IFS Applications 9 transactions.
- Better reporting and traceability across all areas of the business.
- Financial savings across supply chain, manufacturing and distribution.

For further information, contact Cedar-Bay at info@cedar-bay.com or visit our web site www.cedar-bay.com