



Leicester College

Case Study



PTS Consulting delivers ICT Strategy, Procurement and Implementation Consultancy as part of major campus development project at Leicester College

The Client:



Leicester College is the eighth largest College in the UK, offering a wide range of courses to 24,700 learners. In order to continue to provide a high standard of education, Leicester College is undertaking a £44 million accommodation development programme across its four main College sites.

The campus development programme will enable the College to meet the future needs of its learners and staff. The project also drives the need to modernise the College's Telecoms systems and services, which must be developed to support converged IP telephony solutions, wireless functionality and the College's legacy PBX infrastructure. In the planning stages of the campus development project, PTS Consulting had previously delivered a Telecoms Strategy for Leicester College, which highlighted a number of recommendations that required significant modernisation to the College's voice and data networks. PTS Consulting was then further retained to provide ICT Procurement Consultancy to the College.

The Challenge:

The Telecoms Strategy had identified that the new Telecoms infrastructure would need to integrate new IP-based technology into the legacy Voice infrastructure, to deliver a fully feature-transparent solution via the existing network. The project needed to incorporate the following elements:

- IP Connectivity for the new Abbey Park Campus
- Voice connectivity via the existing telephony system for the 1,200 sq m re-development of the Foundry Building
- External connectivity from all sites to the public network service

When PTS Consulting was engaged by the College to assist with the Procurement management, the rebuilding and construction work was advancing quickly. This necessitated the need to run a Procurement exercise without delay in order to ensure the project as a whole met its deadline.

Allan Gemmill, Project Director, Capital Programme for Leicester College explained: *"With a construction and campus development project of such size, attention to detail and consideration in relation to the supporting communications infrastructure was vital. The procurement of such a solution had to be undertaken methodically and efficiently and with a challenging deadline facing us, we were confident that PTS Consulting could help."*



The Solution:

The scope of the new telecoms infrastructure procurement consultancy included:

- LAN switching infrastructure at the Abbey Park and Foundry Building
- Wireless Access Network
- Voice over IP (VoIP) telecoms solution, serving both Abbey Park Campus and Foundry Building
- Interface of the VoIP solution with the legacy telephone network serving St Margaret's Campus, Freeman's Park Campus and outreach centres

PTS consultants firstly undertook a review of the College's existing infrastructure and assessments of operating requirements to identify the work required and allow the production of a technical specification for the Data Network, Telephony and Telephony Applications. During this evaluation process, the PTS team considered the College's wider ICT services. This work was to ensure full functionality across the infrastructure so that the College's ICT function as a whole was fully joined up. This assessment found that the telecoms software was outdated and would need to be replaced. PTS Consulting then used the specification to produce a formal Invitation to tender to be distributed to potential suppliers using the OGC Catalyst Framework. PTS Consulting also assisted with the supplier competition process and helped evaluate the responses. From this, the equipment supplier was selected and contract awarded.

The Benefits:

Leicester College has been able to successfully procure a converged IP telephony solution that will support wireless functionality and integrate fully with the College's legacy PBX infrastructure. The College is now fully confident that it can meet the future communication requirements of its staff and learners and provide a good level of functionality and integration across the new and existing campuses and buildings.

The Verdict:

The College now has a good understanding of their telecoms infrastructure and is been in a better position to manage it throughout the campus improvement project and beyond. Following the procurement, PTS Consulting has assisted Leicester College with the management of the implementation process. The new platform is now providing increased functionality for end-users and the College is happy with the success of the project. Allan Gemmill, Project Director, Capital Programme for Leicester College concluded: *"With PTS Consulting's expert advice and guidance surrounding our Telecoms strategy, procurement and implementation, Leicester College has been able to successfully introduce converged IP telephony and wireless capabilities onto our existing network. On the back of our wider campus development and improvement programme, the College now has a stable, fully functional communications platform in place that will support our learning and teaching objectives for years to come."*

About PTS Consulting: PTS Consulting Group PLC (PTS) is one of the world's leading IT consultancies with a reputation for innovation and thought leadership. PTS is also renowned for its project management expertise. As the global leader in IT relocation projects, working with some of the world's largest companies, PTS has earned a world-wide reputation for independence, professionalism and quality of service. Headquartered in the UK and founded in 1983, PTS has worked in over 70 different countries, 250 cities and employs more than 330 staff in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific. www.ptsconsulting.com