Meritum Cloud consolidates financial reporting for Elton John AIDS Foundation

OVERVIEW

As a grant-giving organisation Elton John AIDS Foundation operates in a complex environment involving multiple charitable entities, beneficiaries, partners, currencies and statutory obligations. It is vital that its financial data is accurate, timely, and actionable.

Here, the Foundation's Finance Director Fiona Russell describes Meritum Cloud's role in making financial information more accessible and visible within the organisation.

CHALLENGE

"Our challenge was to improve spend accountability across the organisation," explains Fiona.

"But our problem was that the financial department was an information bottle-neck. We were keeping people waiting for the data they needed to demonstrate their accountability."

CAUSE

"Whilst our financial system is very robust it lacked some of the reporting flexibility we needed. For example, for budgeting, we were relying on twenty different Excel spreadsheets

STATISTICS

Elton John AIDS Foundation:

- Established 1992
- Grant-giving organisation
- Global reach and impact
- Aiming to eradicate AIDS by 2030

Meritum Cloud Financial Reporting

- Integrating Microsoft Business Central with Power BI
- Multi-dimensional reporting capability
- Executive dashboard design
- Delivery in partnership with EBIS

"Meritum Cloud and their team are very open, industrious and trustworthy . As soon as they had our requirements our IT team were confident that they would deliver what we needed."

Fiona Russell, Finance Director

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to download, collate, sort and pivot the data to gain the right levels of performance insight across the organisation."

IMPACT

"This meant we were spending more time grinding out numbers than being strategic. The process to manually consolidate spreadsheets was error-prone and did not enable us to provide more insightful information to the finance committee and the Board."

MERITUM CLOUD'S APPROACH

"Meritum Cloud and their partner EBIS worked alongside our IT team to specify and design an external financial reporting solution in Microsoft Power BI.

"Their reports helped to enable visibility of all reporting dimensions, so we were able to slice and dice data by year, budget, forecast, department and entity.

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OUTCOME AND RESULTS

"We now have all of our standard and bespoke financial reports available at the touch of a button within Power BI. This makes the finance department's job so much easier!

"Our budget-holders can now demonstrate their ac-

countability through month-to-month visibility of budgets and forecasts, as well as being able to see what their actual costs consist of. They can drill into the information, track the progress of their invoices, and raise any concerns about how items have been allocated.

"We are saving a huge amount of time and have been able to increase our strategic proactivity."

NEXT STEPS

"Meritum Cloud and EBIS have designed an executive reporting dashboard within Power BI so our next step is to implement the data engine to populate that.

"As well as our finance system, we will ultimately be overlaying Power BI reporting functionality on our grant system and CRM platform also, so we will be consolidating information across three different data sources."

MERITUM CLOUD SAYS:

"It's been a privilege to leverage our great partnership with EBIS in support of Elton John Aids Foundation. It's meant we've been able to pool our skills and resources, bring the best expertise at the most affordable price to an influential charity."