

Helping to protect UK food hygiene through server based computing with carbon control



When the Meat Hygiene Service decided upon a strategy for simplified computing and a reduced carbon footprint, Amicus ITS implemented a nationwide solution based on thin clients with a proven Return on Green Investment.

The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), an Executive Agency of the Food Standards Agency, was established on 1 April 1995, assuming inspection duties from some 300 local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The MHS acts to ensure that slaughterhouses and cutting plants comply with European Union (EU) directives on the production of safe meat and DEFRA regulation for animal health and welfare. It achieves this through official controls and risk-based audits. The MHS has a statutory duty to provide these services on demand; 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, throughout the UK.

Business Improvement with Carbon Control

Food Business Operatives (FBOs) have a legal obligation to provide the MHS with series of important data such as meat inspection results. Historically the FBOs have relied upon onsite desktop PC's for data collection and transfer. Across the county this amounted to 300 machines and monitors. The PC's were only being used for a fraction of their capability making them expensive assets that regularly required onsite maintenance by an engineer.

Following reviews at the MHS a business improvement plan was prepared and an opportunity was identified to reduce the number of PC's by implementing a thin client solution. The new solution would produce significant savings for the FBOs in power consumption reducing the organisation's carbon foot print and providing real cost saving benefits.

The Solution: Thin Client Infrastructure

Working in close consultation with the MHS, Amicus ITS, in partnership with Equanet, developed a power efficient thin client solution using Chip PC Technologies. Equanet choose to partner Amicus ITS as the company is recognised

as a global technology leader in desktop thin client computing. Equanet and Amicus ITS replaced the 300 desktop PC's being used by the MHS with Chip PC thin client terminals using Citrix as the application delivery solution. These terminals run on a fraction of the power that a normal desk top PC uses and cost around 50% less in capital outlay. In addition, the organisation benefited from removing the need for onsite maintenance of the PC's.

Return on Green Investment (ROGI)

As a result of this initiative, the MHS is set to save in excess of £200,000 for FBO's over a five year period. The new environment will significantly reduce power consumption from 75KW across 300 machines to 10.8KW creating a significant carbon reduction of over 30 tonnes of CO2 per year (which is equal to taking 5-6 cars off the road or 23 flights to the USA). In addition, there is a secondary carbon saving by reducing travel to complete on-site support. Using Chip PC has provided the MHS with a truly green solution that offers a real Return on Green Investment (ROGI).

Amicus ITS is the first IT company to be appointed by Carbon Footprint Ltd - an organisation that partners businesses in environmental strategy, development and management.

Equanet is the specialist channel of DSGi Business for large and medium sized managed customers and the public sector. Holding Multiple public sector framework accreditations including Catalist, Equanet is Amicus ITS Limited's strategic partner for OGC Buying Solutions.

For more information please contact the Amicus ITS team on 02380 429429 or e-mail: sales@amicusits.co.uk

Key Benefits:

The Amicus ITS solution contributes to the MHS's Business Burden Reduction Programme through:

- Reduced hardware costs
- Reduced plant power consumption and carbon outputs
- Improved corporate social responsibility
- Centralized maintenance under a fully managed service
- Improved information turnaround



Example of Cost Reduction

Legacy Environment: 300 Desktop PC across the MHS

- Capital Cost: £600 per machine
- Power Consumption: 250W per machine (250 x 300 machines = 75,000W / 75 KW)

New Environment: 300 Thin client monitors

- Capital Cost: £300 per machine
- Power Consumption: 36W per machine (36W x 300 machines = 10,800W / 10.8 KW)

Power Saving Based in 10p per KWh

- Hourly power saving: 75 KW – 10.8 KW = 64.2p/h
- Hourly cost saving: 64.2 KW x 10p = £6.42

Annual power cost savings £56,293 pa

Return on Green Investment (ROGI)

- Project cost: £133,000 = £4,315 per month
- Monthly Power saving: -£6,748 per month
- Difference: -£2,433 per monthly (Yr 1 - 3)
- Difference: -£6,748 per month (Yr 4 - 5)

Amicus ITS - part of the Harmoni Group of Companies

Trinity Court, Brunel Road, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3WX, UK
Telephone: + 44 (0) 2380 429429 Fax: + 44 (0) 2380 429418

www.amicusits.co.uk

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24x7 IT solutions by design