



storm
technology

CASE STUDY

Cafico International

Future-ready Financial Management with Business Central

Supporting Future Growth at Cafico International with Cloud Based ERP, Business Central

Cafico International helps international companies and financial institutions doing business nationally or internationally through the provision of tailored and independent trust and corporate services. With an eye on service excellence, Cafico International provides a full suite of corporate administration, financial and management accounting, tax compliance and treasury services to clients operating across a broad spectrum of industries including pharmaceutical and biosciences, manufacturing and distribution, technology, communications, aviation and financial services.

Growing from strength to strength since first opening its doors in 2012, Cafico International boasts a global footprint with offices in Ireland, Luxembourg and the UK. To continue its strong growth trajectory and to enhance the financial services delivered to their clients, Cafico International turned their attention inwards, to introduce an adaptable ERP system to address the needs of both their internal finance function and their financial reporting client team.

Supporting Growth at Scale

"As a professional services firm, time and knowledge are our products. Our legacy time-recording and accountancy systems operated as standalone solutions and what we wanted to do was really integrate the timekeeping, invoicing and accountancy systems for the organisation, to facilitate data flow and ensure these systems were able to talk to each other. As our business continues to grow, scalability is key, we needed a solution that could grow with the business and handle any number of clients down the line" explained Head of Operations at Cafico International, Sean Looby.

To support future growth, Cafico International also sought to safeguard financial operations through the reduction of key person risk. Reducing reliance on manual-based processes, to

prevent the finance function becoming reliant on key individuals and legacy knowledge, was a key consideration for the organisation. By getting critical data onto one system, the organisation could implement a strong standard operating procedure, enabling the team to scale as required. Finally, to enhance existing control and audit procedures, there was a requirement to identify a new system that would provide greater control of system inputs and approval processes.

With clients at the forefront of operational decisions at Cafico International, the financial reporting team sought to enhance their existing accountancy services for clients, through the introduction of a new adaptable accountancy system. The new system would facilitate the production of tailored reports for their clients, reduce manual processes and provide a robust method for audit process management. With over 300 clients, the majority of whom are audited each year, having a system that would streamline and enhance existing processes would deliver both operational and client gains.

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Sean Looby,
Head of Operations,
Cafico International

Building an Integrated Business Platform

Speaking on the selection of an ERP technology platform and partner, Looby stated *"having made the decision to update our financial systems, we settled on Microsoft Business Central pretty quickly. As a Microsoft client operating the full Office 365 package, staying with Microsoft would allow us to leverage our existing back up and authentication systems, eliminating the need to run two parallel disaster recovery systems. And while Business Central didn't offer the time-recording capabilities needed out of the box, seamless integration with Progressus, a flexible time-recording solution that catered for the different billing solutions within our organisation, would allow us to centralise critical business data into one system, Business Central."*

When it came to selecting a Business Central technology partner, what really stood out to us about Storm Technology was the depth and breadth of their Microsoft knowledge. In the back of our minds, we knew that there would be other products that we would consider in the future such as Power Platform and SharePoint, and we knew that Storm could potentially be a partner for a wide variety of Microsoft based projects going forward. In addition to their expertise, Storm is a local Irish SME, which gave us the confidence that our project would get the attention it deserved with the potential for a longer-term relationship."

Transforming Existing Processes

To align with business operations, the Storm ERP consultants worked closely with key project stakeholders within Cafico International, to go through each module, be it sales, purchases, fixed assets or reporting and understand how the company approached these with their legacy systems and processes. *"Their Business Central consultants understood not only the technical aspects of the project but demonstrated a strong financial understanding. This meant we were not constrained by our historic ways of working, rather they challenged us to think differently and identify areas of improvement in our existing processes. The implementation of Business Central was meticulous in terms of working through each section of the system, ensuring we fully understood all aspects of the platform and how they could work for us going forward."*

Not only did the team help get templates set up, but they also supported us throughout the user adoption journey with a focused group of users brought through each module step by step during the design stage, with wider team training provided once we had the solution designed and built-in sandbox mode," commented Looby.

To support the financial requirements of their diverse client portfolio, Cafico International worked with the team at Storm to create a bespoke business application. One that performs as an extension to the Business Central solution and enables the team to lock down data stored and support financial auditing and reporting.

Robust Financial Management

With Business Central now up and running, Cafico International's internal finance function has reported increased confidence in the system's ability to meet the current and future needs of the rapidly growing organisation. In addition,

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management confidence and reporting has been transformed, providing greater visibility into the operational and financial data from across the organisation. *"With Business Central the management information coming out of the system is huge. We can really drill down into our data, revenue, and cost centres to better understand the drivers for the business, which is probably one of the most significant enhancements from an operational perspective."*

On the financial services side, Business Central has provided us with uniformity across all our client accounts including how we process items. It has also transformed the onboarding of staff, speeding up the process and helping new staff members to get up and running quickly and easily in accordance with the Cafico International way," concluded Looby.

Cafico International is an experienced independent Trust and Corporate Services Provider for those seeking to do business in Dublin, London or Luxembourg. Find out more at www.caficointernational.com.

Interested in finding out how Storm Technology and cloud-based ERP solution, Business Central can transform financial management and reporting within your organisation? [Click here](#) to speak to one of our Dynamics 365 solution specialists.

Contact Us

Dublin

The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7
D07 FK22

Galway

15 Market Street,
Galway,
H91 TCX3

Belfast

18 Ormeau Avenue,
Belfast,
BT2 8HS

T: +353 1 416 1226 (IRE)

T: +44 28 9049 0979 (UK)

E: info@storm.ie

W: www.storm.ie



Microsoft
Solutions partner

