

## Case Study / BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)



Staff at Alvis Vickers Limited (AVL), the armoured vehicle company, can now access information electronically across the company's four sites in Newcastle, Leeds, Telford and Wolverhampton, thanks to Washington-based networking and e-business company, Knowledge I.T.

When Alvis Vickers was formed in 2002, following a merger between Alvis Vehicles and Vickers Defence Systems, different operating systems meant that the company could not share data, cad drawings or other information across its four sites. This was further complicated by the lack of integration, coordination and structure at the Telford site where separate I.T. departments had previously operated independently.

Knowledge I.T. was awarded the network integration contract by AVL in May 2003 and has just completed the final stages of the massive I.T. overhaul. Syrus Mokhtari, Knowledge I.T.'s AVL Account Manager secured the contract in the face of stiff competition from both national and local firms.

Jeff Czuprynski, AVL's I.T. manager, said: "We needed to find an I.T. company that understood the issues involved, and had the skills and expertise to undertake a project of this scale. Knowledge had the experience, as the company had already completed a number of similar contracts. They understood the risks involved and approached the project in a well-planned and structured manner. By using their programme management methodology and collaborative tools, they encouraged greater team interaction and faster decision-making, making the project a huge success."

Stuart Ridgway, network manager for AVL, said: "The network integration was the cornerstone of the project, which saw the operating systems upgraded to Microsoft 2003. A new Active Directory was created to enable 1000 user accounts to be migrated to the new site. Knowledge established a dedicated migration lab at its head office to develop tools to migrate users from previous networks on a controlled site-by-site basis.

With a complex programme like this, in a changing environment, flexibility is essential. Knowledge demonstrated its flexibility and total commitment to this project, which was conducted with minimum disruption to the business throughout."

### Project Overview

Company: Alvis Vickers

Project: Microsoft Migration

Web: [www.baesystems.com](http://www.baesystems.com)

### Benefits:

- Business Integration
- Improved Performance
- Reduced operational costs
- One network access from any site
- Single corporate intranet
- Consolidated helpdesk

Stuart continues: "We were the first Knowledge customer to upgrade to Microsoft 2003 but the company ensured everything went smoothly by testing in-house in advance. Every action was documented and the company set up a document management server so that AVL staff could log on and access the information remotely."

### The Benefits

Jeff Czuprynski concludes: "This project has been fundamental to the integration of AVL as a business. It has broken down barriers, by providing one network access from any site. AVL now has an integrated help desk, common user policies, a single corporate intranet, which saw the Newcastle system migrated to Telford, and has rationalised its IT asset management database. We've already seen performance benefits and anticipate significant cost savings by doing away with duplication and supporting just one system.

Martin Coleman, Knowledge IT's managing director, said: "We were delighted to be chosen to work on this extremely prestigious and exciting programme. We have a great deal of experience in Microsoft technologies, and this has enabled this complex project to run smoothly, to the total satisfaction of BAE."

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