



Case study:

Mouchel

Security opens doors for Mouchel with ISO27001 consultancy from Cloud Business

Mouchel is a consulting and business services group which provides many of the design, managerial and engineering services that support modern society.

The company works with government agencies, local authorities, government-regulated industries and the private-sector to provide safe, reliable roads and railways, well-managed education and civic infrastructure, clean water, and cost-effective energy.

It is also a leader in the development of waste management solutions and strategies for urban regeneration. Mouchel was awarded 'Top 20 Best Big Company to Work For' status in March 2008 in the annual Sunday Times rankings.



Snapshot

- ISO 27001 accreditation
- Public and private sector bids are increasingly stipulating the standard as a minimum requirement
- Rapid certification with minimal disruption
- Deep knowledge of the standard and the processes involved
- No waste – the certification process matched the need precisely
- Easier path to re-certification
- More opportunities to bid for major contracts
- An audit and gap analysis of Mouchel's existing standards identified the relevant controls for the company's certification
- Cloud Business consultants guided the Mouchel team through the certification process and established the basis for the six monthly reviews of the certification

What did Mouchel want to achieve?

As leading partner to public sector organisations, Mouchel has to comply with the rigorous standards set by many different government departments and agencies. Among them is the information security standard ISO/IEC 27001:2005, known as ISO27001.

This is the standard defined by the International Standards Organisation for establishing, implementing, operating, and improving a documented Information Security Management System. Though it is a demanding certification, it allows flexibility, taking account of the specific risks facing each individual organisation.

"Increasingly, we were being asked for ISO27001 certification when bidding for new work," says James Agombar, Information Security Manager for Mouchel, based at the company's Group IT office in Byfleet.

"While we had our own strong security policies in place, the key requirement was to demonstrate them and show that they met an internationally recognised standard."

James Agombar turned to long-term IT partners Cloud Business for assistance with the certification process. "Standards like these are minefields of detail and tight specifications," he says. "Cloud Business had the experience and resources we needed to complete the process quickly, and with as little disruption as possible."

How did we help them succeed?

The ISO27001 standard specifies 139 different controls that may be applied to reach the certified standard. Cloud Business consultant Neil Denham explains that the first stage of the process is determining which of those controls are relevant to the customer.

"We begin with an audit and gap analysis of the existing security system," he says. "This is based on an initial risk assessment, taking into account the value of the assets that will be protected by the certificated deployment."

"Our aim is always to make the process as cost-efficient as possible, ensuring our client achieves the standard without investing any more time or money than is absolutely necessary."

Having identified that several of the controls within the standard were not required for Mouchel, the Cloud Business team proceeded to prepare a statement of applicability. This creates the baseline for certification as it applies to Mouchel and is used as the foundation for the rest of the certification project.

"Once the audit and analysis was complete, we were able to establish an information security policy for Mouchel that met the standard," says James Agombar. "Most importantly, we could provide the documented evidence to demonstrate the process and the policies that we had put in place."

"This is a crucial element of ISO27001 certification. You have to design and implement your policy, but you also have to prove you have done so in a manner that meets the standard."

Where Mouchel happy with the result?

Mouchel publishes its documentation on a secure website, enabling prospective clients to view the policy and the relevant certification. Achieving ISO27001 certification has opened new bid opportunities for Mouchel.

“This was a strategic business issue for us,” says James Agombar, “and it was essential that we had the backing of the board to support the process. The exercise also proved useful in raising the question of information security on the corporate agenda; there is a much greater awareness and understanding of security issues across the organisation since we went through this process.”

“As a requirement of the standard, the certification is subject to an internal and external audit every six months. “Cloud Business helped us implement the policies and procedures to ensure that Mouchel’s Information Security Management System evolves and supports the business accordingly,” says James Agombar.

“With no previous experience of the procedures involved, James recognised the value of Cloud Business’s expertise.

“They were a great help in getting the job done as quickly and as smoothly as possible” James says. “The project would have stretched our resources to the limit, but it was critical to our business mission.

“Cloud Business delivered the complete certification process with consummate professionalism, allowing us to focus on the new opportunities it created for the business.”

A final word about Cloud Business

We create transformative IT technology solutions that give our customers the protection and freedom to become the business they want to be.

With the right protection you can empower your teams to do their best work and seize opportunities to innovate and do more with your technology.

Our Cyber Security Services are designed to protect your business and drive productivity, collaboration and agility across your organisation.

Learn more about us at www.cloudbusiness.com.

For further information on how Cloud Business can support your migration to Office 365, please contact us at hello@cloudbusiness.com, or talk to us on [0845 680 8538](tel:08456808538).