

# PlumConsults validates IT Strategy for top engineering and consultancy firm, Carl Bro UK



## The Challenge

**In Autumn 2003, Graham Paterson, IT Manager, Carl Bro UK, and the IT team, were looking for external assistance to challenge and endorse their internally developed IT strategy. The strategy involved serious long term IT investment, so it was essential that Carl Bro selected a partner with whom they could rely and trust for impartial and independent advice.**

## About Carl Bro Group

The Carl Bro Group is a worldwide consulting engineering company with over 3000 engineers, scientists and consultancy professionals, based across 80 offices. Within the UK, the Carl Bro Group employs over 600 specialists advising in all aspects of development, energy, land ownership, transportation, building, manufacturing, water, financial and legal marketplaces.

## The Problem

With such a large UK infrastructure to support, the Carl Bro IT team set about developing an in-depth IT strategy that would see them through the next 5 years. Work on the strategy took several months and significant manpower, and with such an extensive planning investment at stake, Carl Bro took the decision to have an independent company examine, critique and potentially endorse their internal findings. Hence in Dec 2003, Graham approached PlumConsults, the consulting arm of PlumData to provide this independent advice.



## The PlumConsults Solution

David Petie, principal of PlumConsults, took two weeks to thoroughly examine the findings of the internal report. Using various tried and trusted methodologies that examined and tested the feasibility of individual elements of the strategy, David's initial findings back to the Carl Bro team were positive. There were, however, significant areas of potential exposure that PlumConsults also identified; namely in the ambitious shortterm timetabling and also by identifying potential risk resulting in the scheduling of the planned strategy longer term over several years. Plus, PlumConsult's thorough security assessment programme revealed some interesting information for the Carl Bro team.

## The PlumConsults Results

Graham and his team at Carl Bro immediately changed priorities following the scheduling advice, both short and long term, and the phasing strategy was changed accordingly from a 1-2 year to a 4-5 year timetable.

One of the major benefits of the exercise was skills transfer. The methodology used by PlumConsults in analysing how well the IT strategy fitted into the overall Carl Bro business requirements differed to the one used internally. The differing methodology allowed Carl Bro to reprioritise elements of the strategy and rephrase strategy implementation and the PlumConsults methodology continues to be a useful and ongoing management tool for the IT Department.

"We felt there was a definite partnership working with PlumConsults. At all times they adhered to our timelines and the security assessment was definitely more in-depth than expected. We felt from the outset that PlumConsults wanted to work with us to achieve our own goals." said Graham, "They definitely achieved trusted advisor status for Carl Bro", he added.

**Call 0870 752 4400 to find out how PlumConsults can help validate your IT strategy.**

For more information on PlumConsults, the consulting arm of PlumData, visit [www.plumdata.co.uk](http://www.plumdata.co.uk)

For more information on Carl Bro, visit [www.carlbro.co.uk](http://www.carlbro.co.uk)

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