



# University of Southampton

## Case Study

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**

Thanks to PTS Consulting, the University of Southampton now has a Data Centre strategy looking forward 15 years.

### The Client:

One of the UK's leading research institutions, the University of Southampton has over 22,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students based in its three faculties of Engineering, Science and Mathematics; Law, Arts and Social Sciences; and Medicine, Health and Life Sciences. The University, which is equally renowned for its consistently high scores for teaching and learning activities, is spread across six campuses – five of which are in Southampton and one in Winchester.



### The Challenge:

The amount of data held and processed daily by Southampton's students and 5000 members of staff means that any Data Centre facility is mission-critical. In order to be able to continue to meet the information needs of its users in an efficient manner and in line with its reputation as a forward-looking teaching and research institution, the University engaged PTS Consulting to assist the Director of iSolutions (the University's IT division) in formulating a long term Data Centre strategy, giving consideration to minimising environmental impact within an advanced Data Centre environment. In turn, this would provide a roadmap for action to enable continued business growth over the next 15 years.

### The Solution:

**Data Centre Strategy:** In order to help build a strategy that would fully reflect the University's needs and objectives both now and in the future, PTS Consulting firstly agreed an approach to achieve this in conjunction with the senior IS Managers, led by the Director of iSolutions. This approach was to produce a staged analysis and formulation of the Data Centre strategy in 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Assessment of current Data Centre facilities
- Phase 2 – Establishing user and Data Centre requirements
- Phase 3 – Formulating capital and operational expenditure budgets to meet the user requirements

The analysis and formulation was researched and delivered with identified key stakeholders, including the University's Estates and Facilities Departments. Using workshops to allow all the stakeholders to explore and understand the group interdependencies, PTS applied knowledge and experience of Data Centres to produce a series of reports. These reports were required for senior University presentation and consensus approval at the end of each phase. With the



acceptance of the reports, and the incorporated explanation of the risks and consequences, the foundation for the 15-year Data Centre strategy was established as a University capital project.

### **The Benefits:**

PTS Consulting's awareness of the scale of the University's needs, linked with its understanding of the technical and environmental challenges, enabled a Data Centre strategy to be developed that will allow the University meet the challenge of technical and business change for the next 15 years.

### **Specific benefits include:**

- Data Centre performance and metric evaluation to provide data on: system age and condition; electrical consumption and temperature measurements; and, thermal hotspots.
- Power and cooling analysis and predication of when power, cooling and spatial limits would be reached.
- Risk analysis and best practice recommendations on how to improve the structure and environmental impact of the Data Centre environment.
- Long term Data Centre strategy and budget that provides a roadmap for implementation.

### **The Verdict:**

Ian Tebbett, Director iSolutions at the University of Southampton commented: *"The University of Southampton employed PTS Consulting to assist with formulation of a forward-looking Data Centre strategy. We now have a clear picture of our Data Centre requirements, as well as a strategic roadmap and budget to work to that is fully aligned with our high-level business objectives."*

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#### *About PTS Consulting*

*PTS Consulting Group PLC (PTS) is one of the world's leading IT consultancies with a reputation for innovation and thought leadership. PTS is also renowned for its project management expertise. As the global leader in IT relocation projects, working with some of the world's largest companies, PTS has earned a world-wide reputation for independence, professionalism and quality of service. Headquartered in the UK and founded in 1983, PTS has worked in over 70 different countries, 250 cities and employs more than 330 staff in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific. [www.ptsconsulting.com](http://www.ptsconsulting.com)*