

“Tagetik’s solution has enabled us to model multiple iterations and scenarios of our annual budget which was previously not possible. This will be key in helping us successfully change our business and perform at the top level in our industry.”

Dr. Rick Ede
CEO, Unitec

Company

Unitec

Industry

Education

Uses

- Budgeting
- Disclosure Management

Key facts

- 20,000 students overall
- 10,000 full-time equivalent students
- 1,100 staff members
- More than 150 work-oriented programmes

Requirements

- Support for 100+ users
- Cloud-based
- Support for multiple business structures
- Standardised calculations across periods, departments, courses, and programmes
- Planning and decision support for business transformation

Results and Benefits

- Transparency of staff costing
- Manual processing time reduced from 95% to 5%
- Reports available in minutes rather than weeks

The Challenges

Unitec, New Zealand’s largest technology institute, was grappling with a complex annual budgeting process. Funding for the institute’s 20,000 students comes from a wide array of sources. The institute has more than 100 departments, each of which has a different budget. Unitec also operates three campuses.

Yet until 2014, Unitec was managing annual budgeting with a complex system of Excel spreadsheets. Unitec’s five-member decision support team, responsible for the annual budget, typically spent three months to consolidate the 100+ spreadsheets involved in the process. The amount of manual work required increased the risk for errors and a lack of standardisation resulted in data inconsistencies. Changes were a nightmare to manage because they had to be manually made in all linked spreadsheets.

So, when Unitec began a \$250M business transformation programme, senior executives recognized that Excel-based budgeting could not provide the business modelling required for planning upcoming organizational changes or manage the upcoming initiatives.

The Objectives

Unitec required a system that had the ability to budget for the upcoming year based on Unitec’s current organizational structure as well as the proposed new structure. The new system also had to be more efficient in consolidating departmental budgets and allow for increased participation throughout the budgeting process in a way that could be better managed and tracked. Unitec also wanted a system that allowed for the consolidation of departments into groupings aligned to industry clusters.

In addition to gaining efficiency, Graeme Archer, Unitec’s CFO, saw an opportunity to enhance the value of the planning process itself. He wanted greater transparency over staff costing and more insight into profitability that would require a new level of budgeting granularity down to the individual course, programme, and departmental levels.

The Solution

Unitec’s decision support team, led by General Manager Kristine Brothers, created a business case to procure and implement a new corporate performance management solution to be implemented prior to the 2016 planning process. In June 2015, Unitec invited the CFO Group to demonstrate the ability of Tagetik software to solve the institute’s planning issues. After careful due diligence, Tagetik was selected. Implementa-

"We used to spend 95% of our time processing data and only 5% analysing the results. With Tagetik, it's just the opposite, which enables us to assist the business far more than before."

Kristine Brothers

General Manager, Decision Support
Finance and Infrastructure, Unitec

"What impressed me about the CFO Group was their ability to quickly understand the important drivers of our business and help us design a solution to address our key issues."

Graeme Archer

CFO, Unitec

tion began in August 2015 with a go-live deadline for November.

Using its results-oriented methodology, the CFO Group, Tagetik's reseller in Australia and New Zealand, began by designing the system outputs, which included: budget papers, working papers for executive teams, the ultimate budget holder plans, as well as an export back into the Oracle general ledger. Data model and report building followed. Then, using Tagetik's built-in ETL tool, actual data was extracted from the Oracle general ledger and the Campus Solutions module. Planning calculations were then added to model both future income and staff costs. Finally data entry screens were built to update the drivers and collect the other departmental expenses.

The majority of the work was done by Brother's team, with initial design and on-going support provided by the CFO Group. The Unitec team quickly learned to administer the system and performs all updates and on-going maintenance.

The project was completed on time and on budget. In fact, the 2016 budget preparation actually began ahead of schedule.

Benefits

The Tagetik solution has enabled Unitec to plan for its future success. Driver-based calculations are configured only once and then applied to every course, programme, and department across every budget month. Under the old system, this would have required tens of thousands of Excel formulae. Now consolidated budget reports are available instantly after drivers and expenses have been entered. Changes can be modelled and scenarios understood without the need for any manual processing. Senior executives have greater confidence in data and have quality information on which to base decisions.

Given the successful completion of the budgeting and planning project, Unitec is now expanding the use of Tagetik for its annual reporting process.

About Unitec

Unitec is New Zealand's largest institute of technology, with more than 20,000 students studying in more than 150 work-oriented programmes. Unitec offers leading employment-focused education at three campuses in Mt. Albert, Waitakere, and Albany.

About Tagetik

Tagetik understands the complex challenges that face the Office of Finance and translates that knowledge into intuitive, enterprise-scale performance management software solutions that drive business results. With Tagetik, companies get the simplicity of the Cloud and the power to unify financial and operational planning; shorten the consolidation and close process; immediately analyze results, model and compare full financial statement impact of business scenarios; adjust strategic plans; seamlessly update rolling forecasts; produce formatted and auditable financial statements and management reports; collaborate on business reviews, and automate disclosure and board reporting. Tagetik has built-in financial intelligence so that CFOs, finance managers, and operations executives can orchestrate multiple or all processes in one software solution. More than 850 customers across 35 countries count on Tagetik to improve efficiency, reduce risk, save money and deliver results. For more information, visit www.tagetik.com.

We get Finance. You get results.