



**HICX**  
SOLUTIONS



**EDF**



**CASE STUDY**

June 2014

## Context

EDF Energy, one of the UK's largest energy companies and the largest producer of low-carbon electricity, struggled with rationalizing their supplier master, causing redundant efforts and a lack of visibility of their supplier information.

EDF wished to centralize their supplier master, enrich their data, ensure compliance, and syndicate supplier information to the appropriate systems.

## Challenges

### Lack of data consolidation

According to Greg Brown, EDF's head of procurement directorate "What we wanted to do was to harmonise the master data where it existed in duplicated form without impacting our internal business. The de-duplication of information within the provider, without having an impact on internal business transactions, was probably the biggest challenge. We invested a lot of time getting that right. We would find outstanding purchase orders with one supplier but then find that the supplier in question had been closed down in favour of another supplier which was exactly the same thing – but how do you manage that? It has to be right first time or it's wrong and you're left with it."

### Lack of supplier oversight

For EDF, it had become critical to be able to monitor supplier compliance. However, to achieve this, there was a need to optimize the master data within SAP to get the requisite supplier oversight.

For Greg Brown, EDF's head of procurement directorate, being able to get insight into the supplier compliance issues, and the risk issues, were even more important than the financial considerations.

## The Solution

### Supplier Data Management

By leveraging HICX's master data management, EDF now have a single source of truth with automated real-time data collection and validation which ensures no duplicate supplier data is entered.

For legacy data, Greg Brown's advice is "You've got to be prepared to invest in cleansing your own data because you can't outsource that."

### Dedicated supplier portal

"Historically, I'm very aware we were sending out things like health and safety questionnaires with each business unit asking for the same stuff but in a slightly different way. This was obviously adding massively to the burden within the supplier organizations,"

Now, with HICX supplier portal, EDF suppliers can upload appropriate insurance documents or health and safety certificates such as OHSAS 18001 and then these will be visible across the group. This is simpler than email or written questionnaires, and allows the company to immediately analyze responses

according to whatever other metadata is stored about the suppliers – category, spend, risk, or anything else.

### Risk Categorization

With HICX, EDF were able to develop a category risk matrix which automatically calculated risk of each supplier which was then used as part of the qualification process.

EDF has over 1,600 product service categories which carry risk in relation to areas such as human rights, the environment and anti-corruption. The categories of risk depended on the particular supplier and the environment into which the goods are delivered. All of this is now automated for EDF and calculated in real-time during the onboarding process to determine which actions and authorizations are required.

### Benefits

EDF Energy is using the system as a way of engaging with suppliers electronically about any particular initiative that it's considering. The system delivers substantial time savings and has helped foster collaboration and synergies between EDF and their suppliers by providing a common basis for discussion.

A spin off benefit identified by Greg Brown was **“The opportunities that come from the consolidation and enhancement of data can have a healthy impact.”**

With HICX real-time validation, through third party data punch outs, accuracy of the data maintained.

Risk is determine and calculated for every supplier to ensure EDF are able to anticipate business impact and make informed decisions in real time.

## ABOUT HICX

### What We Do

Our platform lets you digitize your old procurement, finance, compliance and supply chain processes.

This creates real value drivers for your business operations derived from improved data quality, better collaboration, centralization, and automation.

### Why We Do It

Because no one else is!

While everyone is trying to fit a square peg in a round whole (by adapting transactional systems such as ERP and P2P systems, which are inherently created to be rigid), HICX opted to create a unifying platform that could work across system silos and is super flexible to change.

Our master data management core connects real business processes with data management in such a way that enables businesses to centralize, streamline, and automate processes faster than ever before creating real value.

### Our Story

HICX is the brainchild of two computer scientists, who came together to create something different in the world of Enterprise software. Founded in 2004 out of London, UK, the company bootstrapped R&D in the early years through its consulting practice which allowed them to hone their craft by understanding the use and limitations of today's Enterprise software for large complex organizations.

Coming to market in 2012 with its first off the shelf offering, they gained rapid traction in Europe and North America, with Global 2000 companies who saw their platform for Supplier Data Management as transformative for Procurement, Finance and Shared Services.

Unlike most companies in the space which focused on hard coding a single process, HICX focused on creating a platform – why? In today's fast paced global economy your requirements today are not going to be your requirements tomorrow, if you cannot quickly adapt software to fit your needs it will quickly become a legacy platform.

HICX has grown and today operates out of the UK, US and UAE and manages millions of suppliers through its platform across 90+ countries globally, but our focus hasn't wavered. We still make business software that's efficient, simple to use and built for change.

**We embody the same values we've had from the beginning and put engineering and innovation for our customers first.**