



Understanding the Challenges facing Building Societies

Hydra Management Limited has a wealth of experience working with several of the largest Building Societies in the UK, and understands the challenges that the sector faces. The low interest rate environment makes it difficult to manage the needs of both savers and borrowers whilst maintaining profit levels; there is high competition for deposits; levels of arrears and possessions are increasing and house prices continue to fall.

In this environment, a major focus is to ensure the business is primed to take advantage when market conditions become more favourable. Building societies face pressures to ensure efficient utilisation of their resources, and to strengthen their IT departments in order to generate revenue through technology.

Newcastle Building Society has been using the Hydra PPRM solution for five years. During this period, Hydra has predominantly been used in the IT Department, to support the management of systems development and user acceptance testing.

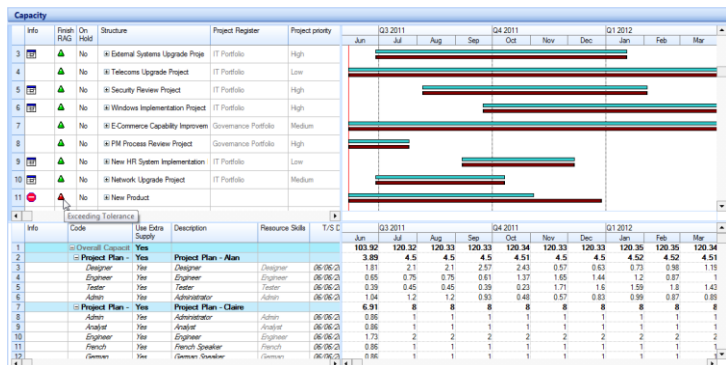
Hydra integrates seamlessly with your existing technology and management process to make your business run as efficiently as possible.

The benefits enjoyed by Newcastle Building Society include:

- **Improved quality of project planning**
- **Increased visibility of resource utilisation and availability**
- **Better management of BAU into the longer term**
- **Enhanced estimation of long term availability of resource for project work**
- **Earlier estimates of realistic project delivery dates**
- **Better visibility in monitoring progress of allocated work**

Hydra Management are today pleased to announce that Newcastle Building Society have agreed a long term commitment to Hydra based on Hydra's proven capability of meeting changing requirements.

Chris Shaw commented "Hydra has helped us to solve our project and capacity planning issues by providing us with a clear view of our portfolio of projects, as well as enabling us to quickly and easily see the impact on our existing workloads and resources when new projects are introduced."



He concluded “We are delighted to be working with both the product and company and look forward to continued benefits by using Hydra.”

Sanjay Gandhi Operations Director at Hydra Management commented “ Newcastle Building Society has been a long standing customer and we are delighted that we have been able to support them through the changing financial climate so that performance improvements can be made and passed on to its customers “

About Hydra Management Limited

Hydra Management Limited is one of the UK’s leading suppliers of portfolio, project and resource management solutions. With over 150 customers and 50,000 users we have experience in consistently delivering benefit and a return on your investment, on average, in six months or less.

Our unique resource scheduler and comprehensive business reporting capability deliver efficiencies to all levels of your organisation.

Easy to use and totally scalable, you will be up and running in just one week.

For additional information please visit: www.hydra-management.com

About Newcastle Building Society

Newcastle Building Society is one of the leading and strongest mutual building societies in the UK with assets in excess of £4.5 billion They are fully committed to the principles of mutuality and have more branches than any other building society in the North East, yet they are still small enough to care deeply about their members, employees and the communities they serve.

For additional information please visit: www.newcastle.co.uk