

# Case Study

## CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE (CEME)

*"We have found Capita ES UNIT-e Student Records and Tracking Solutions has many benefits. The three main ones are the flexibility of the software, ease of use by end users and the software integration."*

*Bharat Rathod, Head of MIS,  
Barking College*



### Summary

How Capita ES UNIT-e SRTS was selected for the groundbreaking CEME project and how the lessons learnt from using the system at CEME will feed back into the MIS developments at the two partner colleges.

### Background

CEME is a not for profit development and part of the Thames Gateway London Partnership project. Two college are closely involved– Barking and Havering – as well as a complex pattern of partnership and support involving the Ford Motor Company, the Department of Trade, the London Development Agency, European Regional Development Fund and the LSC in the initial stage which has a focus on work with schools and FE. This phase started in September 2003 with an official opening by Prime Minister Tony Blair on November 6th and currently has an enrolment of over 680 students.

Plans are now well progressed for developments of stage two where the focus will be on Higher Education with the involvement of the University of East London, Warwick Business School and Loughborough University as well as ongoing discussions with other potential HE partners.

The £40million CEME development is the flagship of the regeneration process with the intention of encouraging a diverse, socially inclusive and innovative learning, manufacturing and business capability for the Thames Gateway. Indeed, the eventual concept is to provide seamless lifelong learning opportunities from basic skills to doctoral research.

### Situation

The two colleges involved in establishing CEME both had Engineering and Manufacturing COVE status but saw the CEME project as providing the opportunity to develop a first rate platform for education and training with excellent business and academic partnerships, strong and up-to-date IT and technology facilities and a business and manufacturing based culture. It was, as Barking's COVE Project Director Bert Furze comments, "a new challenge and a new initiative that could mark out a new path for FE and also show how partners could benefit."



## How Capita ES became involved

In this environment it was important that CEME should have a really effective management information system available – one that would be in line with the high IT emphasis in the project itself. Both colleges felt that Capita's UNIT-e SRTS was superior to other systems in the market.

Additionally both colleges were looking to up-grade their own student records system and using UNIT-e at CEME would enable them to gain some experience of using it before it is introduced at the colleges. UNIT-e is currently operated with one MIS officer based at CEME with Bharat Rathod, MIS Manager at Barking College, responsible for integration with the systems still in use at the two Colleges.



## Why Capita ES and UNIT-e SRTS work well for CEME

According to Bharat Rathod "UNIT-e has been easier to set up than other MIS that we have worked with. This is partly because of its flexibility although at times it seems to be too flexible, if that's possible!"

He also highly rates the consultancy and training that has been provided by Capita ES. "This has been an important element in the development of the UNIT-e SRTS at CEME and the consultancy has helped us by leading us through the processes involved. The training has also been well received."

UNIT-e curriculum software has also been used to set up courses and UNIT-e has enabled students to be enrolled in real time with the minimum of fuss.

Looking to the longer term CEME can see future benefits in the UNIT-e SRTS including the improved examinations package, including Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), integrated timetable and e-Register, data warehouse and other web-based packages such as enquiries. There are also the UNIT-e reporting features which will be important in ensuring information is maintained in an appropriate format for the various funding streams. Bharat Rathod is now looking forward to "setting up a system at CEME that will be open to all lecturing staff."

Of course, part of the innovative CEME project embraces an e-learning network to support remote learning and the facility that UNIT-e provides with LearnWise is important in this respect.

## The Benefits

- Easy to manipulate data
- Good project management consultancy
- A very flexible system
- Integrated software
- The use of pro-forma eases data entry
- UNIT-e has a uniform look and feel

## UNIT-e products used by CEME ✓

- ✓ UNIT-e Student Records & Tracking Solution  
UNIT-e Finance Management - Aptos
- ✓ UNIT-e Admissions and Enquiries
- ✓ UNIT-e Resource Manager  
UNIT-e Performer  
UNIT-e Online Services
- ✓ UNIT-e Office Builder  
UNIT-e Intranet Builder
- ✓ UNIT-e Enrolments  
UNIT-e Executive Analysis Suite
- ✓ UNIT-e Desktop
- ✓ UNIT-e Columbus  
UNIT-e Class Importer  
UNIT-e 3rd Party Interface  
UNIT-e Advanced Configuration Toolset
- ✓ UNIT-e Attendance Manager
- ✓ UNIT-e Curriculum Manager
- ✓ UNIT-e Exams & Assessments
- ✓ UNIT-e Finance Manager  
UNIT-e Personnel Manager
- ✓ UNIT-e Report Generator
- ✓ UNIT-e Database Manager  
LearnWise Virtual Learning Environment