

## Case Study

### Technology & Trust: The map to success for OneSearch Direct

OneSearch Direct is one of the largest providers of conveyance and exchange ready property searches in England. The company works with many of the country's leading conveyancing companies, estate agents and lenders and provides a broad range of property information. The range of search reports it provides includes title reports, environmental reports, property certificates, mining reports and planning reports.

The company has retained its position as a leading supplier by ensuring that the information provided is fast, accurate and quality assured. The investment in the technical infrastructure and solutions to enable this has always been a key priority to OneSearch Direct.

Stuart McWhinnie, Director of Technology and Business Development at OneSearch Direct explains, "Pulsion Technology has been an IT partner of ours for a number of years and has a solid understanding of our key business processes. They had previously undertaken a number of development projects for us including our Online Property Search Application and Certificate Management System. We were already using a geographic mapping solution to enhance the way we viewed and interrogated property related data. Initially it worked well, but through time became obsolete with constraints on development. In order to stay at the forefront in our field, replacing the software was a must. Pulsion was very well placed to deliver this for us and provided lots of input and guidance at the scoping stage."



#### Project Brief

Following the decision to invest in replacement software, Pulsion was engaged by OneSearch Direct to develop a digital map rendering and display system. OneSearch Direct required modern mapping technologies which would allow staff to overlay GIS (Geographic Information System) data on base maps from various suppliers, which would integrate with the existing Certificate Management System and would allow the teams to populate property certificates more efficiently.

#### Project Benefits

The key benefits to OneSearch Direct include the following:

- » A rich, shared, repository of GIS information
- » Effective visualisation of GIS and property related information
- » The ability to upload information to centrally located maps which can be accessed for a number of searches
- » Reduction in duplication of effort when performing GIS data searches
- » Continual compilation of GIS data from a number of sources ensures accuracy of data
- » In addition to creating the Mapping Solution, Pulsion also developed a Royalty Calculator which is used to calculate the payment of royalties due to Ordnance Survey.



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### Project Features

The key deliverable was a fully functional mapping solution which is built on an Ordnance Survey data set and allows producers of property certificates to find a property and surrounding area on a map and be presented with a graphical overview of pre-populated GIS data. The OneSearch Direct data collection team feeds information from various sources including records made available by Local Authorities and relevant public agencies, into the mapping solution which continually updates the detailed map layer and digital representations on the maps. Common information displayed includes:

- » Planning application information
- » Conservation areas
- » Roads and road adoptions
- » Transport routing
- » Environmental information
- » Boundary information
- » Tree preservation orders
- » Adverse road proposals

The mapping solution allows data to be overlaid on various different base map sets, including the Ordnance Survey's MasterMap product and Google Maps. The key features of the solution are:

- » The ability to pan around the map and zoom to specific easting and northing co-ordinates
- » Switching facility between MasterMap dataset and Google Maps
- » Turning on/off the various layers of information dependent upon view required
- » Automatic searching of specific data sets to determine if a property or surrounding area is affected by a designation

### Project Outcomes

The mapping solution was implemented to replace a legacy system, and delivered immediate benefits to producers of

property certificates. The project has provided OneSearch Direct with a flexible, accurate and customisable data visualisation tool which ensures OneSearch Direct meets its objectives of providing 'fast, accurate and quality assured' search information.

"The mapping solution is another project which has demonstrated Pulsion's technical capabilities and experience in a number of areas including GIS data visualisation. Pulsion continues to support the business and investigate other opportunities to implement process improvements. We are now considering the introduction of PDA based mobile working software to our team out on the field which would drive efficiencies even further," adds Stuart.

### Partnership Approach

Stuart has been involved in the partnership with Pulsion for a number of years and explains how the relationship has developed.

"We first engaged with Pulsion around eight years ago when they supported our original Certificate Management System. Over time, they completely redeveloped this system and since then have gone on to develop other line of business solutions which have gone a long way to keeping us ahead within the market.

Pulsion also provides us with additional DBA and technical support to our available in-house resources. They have the flexibility and the ability to proactively maintain our databases either on site, or from a remote location. When any issues have arisen in the past, the team has always responded swiftly and minimised the impact on my staff."

### So would OneSearch Direct recommend Pulsion as a supplier?

Stuart comments, "Pulsion has been a key partner in helping OneSearch Direct drive business improvement through technology. We have benefitted greatly from their experience, technical capabilities and ability to deliver. I would, and have, recommended Pulsion and look forward to working on future projects with the team."