

OUTSTART



Ascent Flight Training: A Smooth Take Off

From its inception in 2008, Ascent Flight Training has worked towards its mission to deliver world-class training for the UK military aircrew under a program called the United Kingdom Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS). The program originated from a National Audit Office report which concluded that it was taking too long and costing too much to train military aircrew in the UK. The report also noted that because of the slow training development process, the technology gap between training content and operational equipment was widening, rendering the training less effective.

Ascent is a 50/50 joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Babcock with a 25-year contract to provide the UKMFTS for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to bases across England and Wales. Its mandate is to deliver world-class, integrated training capabilities that are cost effective, coherent and flexible to cater to the future flight training needs of the UK Armed Forces until 2041.

"Prior to Ascent being established in 2008 in response to the UKMFTS," says Andy Stryker, Courseware Development Lead, Ascent Flight Training. "Every military flight training cell produced their own training materials. As a new company and a newly formed training group, our mandate was very clear: develop, manage, maintain, and deliver modular and personalized world class training programs for all UK aircrew more quickly than was previously possible and meet the detailed specifications for content, quality and budget of the new program."

TURBULENCE FREE

Having come from former training divisions throughout the UK military, the new Ascent training team was well aware of the challenges that each military division had previously encountered with respect to developing and delivering training. The newly formed team sat down to discuss past training challenges and how they would meet those needs going forward in order to fulfill the numerous requirements of the UKMFTS.

"Although we were all previously from different armed forces training teams, our challenges had been quite similar," says Andy Stryker. "We have all had issues integrating with various LMS systems making the delivery and tracking of training difficult; the existing training lacked a consistency in branding that would now be required by the new program; the existing process for updating content was labor intensive and required updating entire lessons and courses, even for minor changes, and we were unable to reuse or repurpose content required to support the training needs for all UK aircrew under the new program. We knew

INDUSTRY: Professional Services

RESULTS

- Optimized the time spent in training
- Reduced the cost of flight training.

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these challenges were costing training time and budgetary spend which would no longer be supported by the UKMFTS program. After discussing our needs with our parent company Lockheed Martin and researching the market, it was clear that a learning content management system (LCMS) would meet our requirements.”

“An LCMS provides us with the required flexibility to integrate with any learning management system (LMS), it provides template capability to ensure consistency in branding across all our military divisions, it allows us to quickly make changes to content in one lesson or across all lessons where a specific asset or content is used, it allows for reuse and repurposing of content and it has the bandwidth to support the 3000+ learners that Ascent, through the UKMFTS program, supports.”

THE RESULTS

By implementing a learning content management system as part of the launch of the UKMFTS program, Ascent met its first deadline of completing a specific set of 266 training lessons. This included budget requirements, timescale requirements as well as the development of all assets associated with the courses, substantiating that the UKMFTS program would be a more efficient and affordable way of providing training to aircrew in the UK.

Although Ascent is not permitted to share specific results gained from implementing an LCMS to support the training development of the UKMFTS program, Andy Stryker did share that the program is on target for optimizing the time spent in training, closing the training gap and reducing the cost of flight training. After meeting the first deadline, Ascent continued to work in partnership with the MoD to define the mission and strategic intent of the UKMFTS program. Through this partnership, Ascent has been awarded a contract for interim Royal Navy Observer Training and continues to fulfill its mission for the UKMFTS program.



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About OutStart

You view knowledge sharing between your employees, partners, and customers as a strategic priority. Their knowledge leads to your success. OutStart's portfolio of inter-related mobile, social, and learning Knowledge Solutions accelerate and broaden access to colleagues and the knowledge they need to respond to business requirements more quickly and make better informed decisions. Together you excel. Recognized as a Visionary in Gartner's Magic Quadrant reports for the last seven years, OutStart is regularly acknowledged for its award-winning solutions including OutStart LCMS; Participate, social business software that integrates social networking, collaboration and knowledge sharing technologies; Hot Lava Mobile for mobile learning and corporate communications; OutStart LMS, a full-featured, configurable LMS; and TrainingEdge.com an integrated learning and knowledge suite combining LMS, LCMS, Social Business Software and Mobile.

For insight into customer implementations, best practices, industry news and more, visit the OutStart Knowledge Solutions Blog, and follow us on Twitter @outstart.

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CASE STUDY:



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