



//Richardson Eyres takes the headache out of data centre move for Mourant

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Mourant is an international, multi-disciplinary, professional services group specialising in fund and corporate administration, offshore law. Head quartered in Jersey, the organisation has over 1,000 employees worldwide and has offices in Guernsey, Dublin, London, Cayman, Hong Kong, New York and Singapore. Its clients include global financial institutions, multi-national corporations, and leading fund promoters.

Most of the company's IT infrastructure was hosted in two rooms in a primary hosting facility in Jersey. However, space was restricted at this facility and as a fast-growing organisation Mourant needed more space to accommodate its expanding IT infrastructure. The organisation also wanted to consolidate its IT environment from two rooms to one to make management of its systems easier, so decided to move to a larger, purpose-built data centre that could offer more space and better facilities.

The primary offshore hosting facility which was selected by Mourant is situated on the outskirts of St Helier and plays host to a number of international banking and online retailers. Mourant decided this best-of-breed facility would be the ideal environment to host the second half of its mission-critical systems.

Relocating to a new data centre without losing any data or damaging hardware is no easy task and Mourant's infrastructure manager was under no illusions as to the enormity of the challenge which lay ahead. Alun Toombs, infrastructure manager, Mourant explains: "It was imperative that our business data was not put at risk during the move, and although our mission-critical data was fully backed up at our second data centre, we were still concerned about the robustness of the hardware. Ultimately, many of these systems are not designed to be moved once installed."

Mourant planning for the move worked closely with its trusted Blade and Storage partner, Richardson Eyres.

Richardson Eyres has worked with Mourant for several years, providing technical support services for its storage and server environment, so is extremely familiar with its IT infrastructure. The data centre consolidation experts were the obvious choice to help design, plan and facilitate the relocation of its blade servers and storage, both integral parts of Mourant's IT infrastructure, to the new data centre.

“It was imperative that our business data was not put at risk during the move, and although our mission-critical data was fully backed up, we were still concerned about the robustness of the hardware. Ultimately, these systems are not designed to be shut down and we were worried that they may not start up again.”



It's all in the planning

The physical move had to take place over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend when the majority of Mourant's UK and offshore offices were shut down for a four day period. However, Mourant had to keep its mission-critical systems available for its non-European based businesses, so it failed over all of its capabilities to its other data centre in Jersey. All support services were transitioned to enable the existing services to be powered down which meant that Richardson Eyres could disconnect the equipment, break it down to its component parts and move it.

Due the high-value worth of the equipment being moved between facilities, Richardson Eyres worked closely with Mourant to ensure all eventualities were prepared for. A staff rota was devised to ensure a hands-on team was constantly available and the necessary packaging to ensure the safe transit of the equipment was sourced. Richardson Eyres also organised insurance for the move and hired a specialist truck to safely transport the equipment.

A seamless transition

Richardson Eyres and the Mourant team worked around the clock to ensure the seamless transition of Mourant's Blade and Storage infrastructure from its existing location to the new facility. This was a meticulous and complex job and Storage Area Networks (SANS) are particularly complicated pieces of kit, so Mourant would only entrust this to Richardson Eyres due to its specialist expertise.

The team worked overnight to shut the equipment down and it was then carefully dismantled. The Blade and SANS were then successfully transported to the new facility where they were meticulously rebuilt. Richardson Eyres remained on the island for a short period after the move to ensure that there were no issues once the infrastructure was back up and running.

Team effort

Now fully integrated in the new data centre, Mourant is reaping the benefits of a facility offering greater capacity for growth.

"The move went extremely well and all of our initial concerns were quickly dispelled thanks to the skill and expertise brought by the Richardson Eyres team," said St. John Cabot, IT director, Mourant.

"We see Richardson Eyres as an extension of our own technical team. We were planning this move with them for the best part of 12 months and they were able to offer advice at both a strategic and tactical level.

"IT infrastructures aren't designed to be moved, so this was a hugely expensive and complex exercise. However, thanks to the diligence and hands-on assistance of the Richardson Eyres team our mission-critical systems were seamlessly moved to a new environment."

Mourant is now planning for the next major change to its infrastructure which will see the business split into two separate organisations, and Mourant will once again call upon the expertise of Richardson Eyres as a trusted IT partner to assist its technical staff to effect this change.

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Challenge

- As a growing organisation, Mourant needed to move to a new data centre to accommodate its plans to expand its IT infrastructure
- To move Mourant's complex blade server and storage environment without damaging it
- The move had to take place over a set period of time, so a strict plan of action was necessary

Solution

- Mourant enlisted the help of one of its trusted IT partners, Richardson Eyres to assist with the design, then plan and orchestrate the move of its blade and Storage infrastructure
- Richardson Eyres prepared for all eventualities and provided round-the-clock support for the move

Results

- Thanks to the skill and assistance of the Richardson Eyres team, the move was successfully completed within the fixed time frame
- The hardware was successfully rebuilt without any major issues
- Mourant is now benefiting from a larger, best-of-breed facility

// Richardson Eyres provides solutions for data centre consolidation. It works with its customers to streamline IT infrastructures, freeing up time, resources and ultimately saving its customers' money.

Richardson Eyres develops long-term and mutually beneficial relationships working with its customers to ensure that it provides bespoke solutions to help their business run efficiently, effectively and above all, profitably.

Richardson Eyres

Unit 12 Alma Road Trading Estate
Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 3HB
t +44 (0) 1494 792 002
f +44 (0) 1494 791 882

www.richardsoneyres.com

It has partnerships with HP and VMware, and is one of a small number of HP Professional Services Partners (PSP) in the UK. It also provides solutions for companies globally, from their offices in the UK and the US.

With over 20 years experience as a data centre consultant, Richardson Eyres has extensive technical knowledge and the know-how to apply this knowledge to help organisations run their IT infrastructures more efficiently. Established in 1986, the company is privately owned and its headquarters is in Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
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