
Associated British Ports (ABP)

Drone digital transformation

Associated British Ports

Case study

Using drone technology to transform asset management for a UK Port Operator

Hybrid model cost savings of



Reduction in time taken to inspect



Digital transformation in asset management



Alignment of cloud asset management platform with existing systems



1. Client challenge

- Drive to improve safety by minimising work at height and to reduce costs and time to inspect
- Desire to improve clarity and sharing of asset management information to aid prioritisation of maintenance activities
- Interested in using drones but unclear on whether they could deliver for their business and, if so, how to implement effectively

2. How we applied our tech expertise

- Ran a drone inspection Proof of Concept (PoC) to determine if the benefits expected from a drone workshop would be realised
- PoC indicated that drones could reduce cost and time significantly compared to traditional methods, we used this to build a “case for change” and worked with the client to secure the buy-in of key stakeholders
- Ran a comprehensive vendor selection process to assist the client in their choice of drone service provider (DSP) for the client, including support in the negotiation the framework contract
- Provided operational support for the deployment of drone services across 8 sites
- Worked closely with the client and DSP to develop bespoke cloud visualisation platform, aligned to client EAM and ERP, that enables intuitive sharing of asset management information and writing of inspection reports in the browser
- Built the business case and assisted the client with their CAPEX for a hybrid model of drone service provision which added an internal drone team to the client's DSP
- PMO (programme management office), training vendor selection and implementation support for the creation of the client's internal-drone team which combined with the DSP to deliver a “hybrid” model

3. Outcome

- Phased, low-risk and evidence-based path to implementing drone services
- Excellent levels of client stakeholder engagement, ensuring that any new processes were effectively aligned with “business as usual”
- Digital transformation of the client's asset management process, enhancing their understanding of key infrastructure and enabling them to prioritise resources
- Reduced health and safety risk, cost and time to inspect reduced by 38% and 55% respectively (hybrid)



After an initial proof of concept with PwC, we realised drones could offer significant value to our asset and property inspections, using drone and data technology integrated with a secure cloud platform. They are safer, faster and more cost-effective, enabling us to optimise operations and reduce risks.

The cloud platform we've built with our partners gives our teams simple and intuitive access to the drone information, including the ability to build inspection reports in the browser, aligned to our existing asset management systems. Without a doubt, this is a big step forward in ABP's digital transformation and safety journey using the latest available technology."

Mike McCartain
ABP Group Director Safety, Engineering and Marine

“

At Associated British Ports, we have greatly valued and benefitted from the insight PWC's drone team have to offer into the drone sector. This has helped us to identify quality drone operators to work with, avoid the drone sharks that exist, helping to change the perception of the technology within the business, and understand where drones bring value to our operations. Without the PWC team on board, we would not have been able to drive this programme forward.”

ABP's Group Development Manager and Drone Project Leader



[pwc.com](https://www.pwc.com)

This is discussion document and does not constitute a contract of engagement with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. The information set out in it is an indication of the terms on which we propose to carry out work for you but the proposal is subject to the terms of any subsequent engagement contract that may be entered in to between us. In the event that any future proposal to you is successful, our acceptance of the engagement will be contingent upon the completion of all our internal engagement acceptance procedures.

If you receive a request under freedom of information legislation to disclose any information we provided to you, you will consult with us promptly before any disclosure.

© 2021 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. All rights reserved. PwC refers to the UK member firm, and may sometimes refer to the PwC network. Each member firm is a separate legal entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details.