

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.”

Alexander Graham Bell

Preparing to Go Live

As we approach the first of the publisher migrations to the new warehouse and systems later in the summer, the project has entered a significant period of key preparatory activities.

The initial phase of system integration testing (SIT1) will complete in early May. This activity has involved the functional testing of process interactions between systems. More than 3,000 scenarios have been covered and testing is progressing well with 97% successfully passed to date.

A second phase (SIT2) takes place during May and continues into early June. This will test full ‘end to end’ scenarios, where every stage involved in raising and completing an order will be covered.

A period of user acceptance testing where further customer and publisher scenarios will be tested will follow in June.



A regression test will also be held in June to check that the developments for Eden have not adversely impacted our business as usual processes.

Detail of the cutover and other final activities for the first go live will be shared in future issues.

There have been some recent management appointments to support this critical phase. Brendan Goss and Steve Lee (pictured above) joined the team at the end of March. Vikas Malhotra will oversee the IT elements of the project.

Meet the Team

Brendan Goss

Programme Manager

Brendan brings to the team considerable experience of delivering complex supply chain projects. A key element of his role on the project is management of the overall delivery plan, encompassing all workstreams.

He has previously worked for a number of major companies, including M&S where he implemented their move to next day in-store delivery.



Steve Lee

Test Manager

Steve has extensive experience of large projects and has previously worked for the government, Ministry of Defence and Home Office in a variety of programme management roles.

He is used to complex, integrated solutions that include deployments of SAP and is managing the system integration testing and user acceptance testing phases of Project Eden.



Vikas Malhotra

IT Programme Manager

Vikas joined Hachette in 2009, currently working as Head of Projects in the IT team.

Projects he has overseen include all recent acquisitions, the distribution move of Little, Brown from TBS to LBS and the Nibbie-winning Printer Directs System.

For Project Eden, Vikas is managing the IT workstreams, including build (overseeing Keytree and REPL supplier work), reporting, data migration, technical, infrastructure and cutover.



Green Credentials

We’re pleased to report that the Hely Hutchinson Centre has been given a BREEAM* rating of ‘Very Good’ which means that it is in the top 25% of UK new non-domestic buildings. Features that have contributed include:

Lighting – a 40% reduction in energy usage by using LED lights, use of translucent ‘roof light’ panels reducing use of electric lighting during daylight hours and minimal lighting in the shuttle areas

Paper – a reduction in paper usage through moving to electronic invoicing

Cardboard – reduced cardboard usage by more efficient box design and order consolidation

Transportation – more efficient packaging will see a reduction in the overall number of lorry journeys



* Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method

Senior Management



In April, the new senior management team for Hachette UK Distribution was announced.

Matt Wright, previously MD of Hachette UK Distribution, will become CEO.

Jo Westbrook becomes COO and will be responsible for warehouse operations as well as client and customer services at the new centre. She continues to have responsibility for LBS until its closure.

James Linney, previously Director of Accounting Services for Hachette, becomes Finance Director.