



“If you write a great book, the chances are it’ll get a great reception.”

Charlaine Harris

Project Update

On 13th July, senior management agreed to proceed with the first go-live for Octopus Publishing Group.

The decision was made on the back of successful testing and the completion of necessary preparatory tasks. This included a ‘volume test’ where a typical day’s warehouse fulfilment for Octopus was successfully replicated.

The ‘cutover’ activities to make the warehouse and new systems live started on 13th July and will run until 20th August when Octopus will dispatch their first orders from the Hely Hutchinson Centre. So far, the following key cutover milestones have been reached:

SAP Solution – the Eden order to cash solution has been uploaded to SAP, ready for Octopus to use from 20th August

Data – customer records have now been uploaded to SAP. Partial title records have been uploaded to the warehouse management systems, which will enable stock to be received



The next milestones are:

Stock Transfer – the delivery of Octopus titles from LBS to the new site will run between 6th-17th August

Biblio – changes to the title distribution screens will be implemented on 9th August

Data – full information for Octopus titles will be uploaded to SAP between 11th-17th August

Training – will be delivered to users in the week before and after the go-live

A decision on when to proceed with the cutover for Little, Brown and Orion will be made in late August.

Feeding the Troops

A shop has recently opened in the Hely Hutchinson Centre where staff can purchase drinks, snacks and light lunches. Purchases are made on an honesty basis with contactless payment.

It’s proving to be a popular feature, with the New Yorker on granary and hoisin duck wrap among the bestselling items.



The stock is refreshed daily, with the product range also adjusted twice-weekly according to the popularity of items and seasonal demand.

The project team have been putting in long hours as they work towards the first go-live. To help fuel their efforts, they were treated to a hog roast (plus veggie options) on 26th July, on a warm afternoon outside the warehouse.

Meet the Project Team

Sophie Baillie

Facilities Manager

Sophie joined Hachette earlier this year after working in facilities management in the oil industry. She oversees all non-operational aspects of the Hely Hutchinson Centre, including maintenance, access, cleaning and parking.



Katie Foggin

Receptionist

Katie joined Hachette in July to look after the reception area of the Hely Hutchinson Centre. Working for Sophie Baillie, she also performs general support for the building’s facilities.



A Warm Welcome

The reception area of the Hely Hutchinson Centre opened in July. It is similar in style to the reception at Carmelite House, with comfortable and colourful furniture and screens displaying the latest company news.

Guests are able to peruse a range of books, with the current selection taken from the lists of Octopus Publishing Group.

