

CASE STUDY

Premier Foods

Premier Foods have achieved a professional culture of project management by adopting a structured project management methodology throughout the organisation and providing staff with the skills to implement it successfully.

Background:

Premier Foods are the UK's biggest food producer. In 2007, facing the dual challenges of integrating newly acquired RHM and the need to develop new products to stay ahead in a changing market, the organisation recognised how vital it would be that projects were controlled and managed effectively and consistently.

A new structured process, "PROMPT", was to be adopted. A derivative of the PRINCE2 methodology, Premier recognised that the PROMPT process alone would not deliver the business benefits they sought. The knowledge, skills and abilities of the people who applied the methodology would be critical to its success.

Solution:

Premier selected Keystrokes to provide learning solutions to support the implementation of PROMPT. Following consultation with sponsors, Keystrokes designed a holistic training programme to address the needs of all who would be involved.

- Briefings for board level sponsors to engage their commitment and 'buy-in' in order to reinforce the importance of compliance.
- Practical awareness workshops for project managers and anyone contributing to a project team, to ensure they understood the benefits of the process and their role in making it work.
- An interactive and innovative skills-based course for project managers – a practical course focused on building skills and applying them to real and topical business case studies.

Benefits:

- Projects are scoped and planned more effectively and accurately
- Projects are delivered faster, within budget and the business can get new ideas to market more quickly
- Consistent reporting and controls mean managers know what is going on and make better informed decisions

"Project managers can apply the methodology with confidence and utilise the new standard documentation and reports"

"Project team members understand both the process and their roles and responsibilities"

An effective project management culture has been built on a process that is fit for purpose, a solid foundation of skills and a top down commitment to the discipline needed to make it work.