



First Data™



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

FCO Reaps Efficiency and Cost Benefits Using First Data's d.cal Purchasing Card Manager and Expense Claim Manager

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office as an organisation has a number of key roles from supporting British nationals overseas to promoting British business and legalising documents. As an organisation, the FCO helps British nationals through a worldwide network of embassies, high commissions and consulates.

In 2005, the FCO adopted commercial cards as an efficient global payment method for their diverse business needs. It chose First Data's d.cal Purchasing Card Manager (PCM) solution as its back-office tool, as it could be deployed over the Web to their different locations and could cater to its multicurrency requirements. PCM enables cardholders to view their statements online and to review their transactions prior to approval by corporate administrators or line managers based elsewhere in the world. The PCM online application ensures all card payment transactions are administered in a timely manner and uploaded to Oracle as frequently as required.

FCO now has 1,400 cardholders accessing the PCM solution on a daily basis, and they have grown the card programme to a significant £13 million per annum.

The efficiency savings have been significant, and the FCO has been able to implement cards in other business areas as a result of the success of its purchasing card programme. In early 2008, it introduced corporate cards and Expense Claim Manager (ECM) to manage its travel packages for UK-based staff posted overseas.

Cards are now an essential part of the FCO business model, and the challenge going forward is to gain maximum performance and benefit from all of the card programmes.

Objectives

- System to meet diverse business requirements
- Management of low-value spend and travel expenses
- Reduce administration time and associated costs

Why d.cal

- Web-based solution ideal for remote users
- Multicurrency capability
- Transaction visibility within 24 hours
- Exports to ledger systems for all card types

Results

- Time and cost savings enable cards to be rolled out further within the business
- Complete transparency of spend and full audit trail for financial analysis
- Prompt payment deadlines adhered to with full management information for internal analysis

A Global Leader in Electronic Commerce

First Data powers the global economy by making it easy, fast and secure for people and businesses around the world to buy goods and services using virtually any form of payment. Serving millions of merchant locations and thousands of card issuers, we have the expertise and insight to help you accelerate your business. Put our intelligence to work for you. In October 2007, Deecal International became a part of First Data, bringing the d.cal system into the First Data suite of products.

For more information, contact your First Data Sales Representative or visit firstdata.com.