



Case Study

"This project went smoothly because our people are great and were prepared, and DFC's people were great."

*John Gast
Director of Finance
Prairie Public
Broadcasting, Inc.*



Customer Profile

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc., located in Fargo, N.D., is a regional nonprofit public broadcasting organization serving North Dakota, western Minnesota, northern South Dakota, eastern Montana, and Manitoba.

Business Solution

Microsoft Dynamics GP offered the reporting ease, speed, and flexibility that Prairie Public Broadcasting needed.

Benefits

- More comprehensive and flexible reporting
- Month-end reporting reduced by 5-7 days
- Reduced staffing needs

Prairie Public's system evolves

Situation

Prairie Public Broadcasting is a regional nonprofit public broadcasting organization serving North Dakota, western Minnesota, northern South Dakota, eastern Montana, and Manitoba. Prairie Public's television service began in 1964, with radio broadcasting beginning in 1980. In 1999, the radio stations merged with stations at North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota to form the first statewide public radio service in North Dakota.

Before upgrading to Microsoft Dynamics GP, Prairie Public used older software on an IBM AS/400 system, as well as several Macintosh computers. The system offered limited reporting capabilities, and many of the processes were manual. Prairie Public used a separate data base for adjusting journal entries.

"It was actually more of a system problem than a software problem," says Director of Finance John Gast. Prairie Public had evolved, but its accounting system hadn't.

Solution

Prairie Public ultimately selected DFC Consultants, Ltd. "Their CEO is a CPA and understood our accounting and reporting needs," says Gast. DFC staff met extensively with Prairie Public before implementing the system solution.

Another factor in selecting DFC was that they're headquartered in Fargo. Gast knew that Prairie Public would have ready access to DFC staff when they were needed.

The final reason for selecting DFC Consultants was that they offered Microsoft Dynamics GP. "We knew Microsoft wouldn't be going away any time soon," says Gast.

Demographics

Industry:
Telecommunications
Annual revenue:
\$7.8 million
Employees: 111 FTE
Users: 10



Products

- Bank Reconciliation
- Business Portal
- Crystal Reports Professional
- Customer/Vendor Consolidations
- Field Level Security
- Fixed Asset Management
- FRx Desktop
- General Ledger
- Integration Manager Financials
- Intercompany
- Payables Management
- Process Server
- Receivables Management
- Refund Checks
- Sales Order Processing with Advanced Invoicing
- SmartList
- System Manager

Implementation took about 3 months. “DFC put together an extensive program of time frames, modules, and goals,” says Gast. “They had people on-site when we needed them, did extensive training on all software modules, and walked us through all our procedures.”

“This project went smoothly because our employees are great and were prepared, and DFC’s people were great.”

Benefits

Unlimited reporting capabilities

“The part I love best is that the reporting capabilities are unlimited,” says Gast in describing Microsoft Dynamics GP. Prairie Public’s users particularly enjoy the flexibility of FRx, tab files that convert to Excel, and SmartLists.

More timely reports

“We’re completing our financial reports five to seven days earlier now than on the old system,” says Gast. Before, Prairie Public’s month-end closings were completed around the 18th or 20th of each month. Now they’re consistently accomplished by 10th or 12th of the month.

Cost savings in staffing

The upgrade meant that fewer CPAs were needed to operate Prairie Public’s finance department. Before the upgrade, the finance staff included Gast (a full-time CPA), one other full-time CPA, one part-time CPA, two accountants, and a part-time accounting clerk. When natural staff turnover occurred, Gast and the remaining staff—with the new software and training from DFC—were able to absorb the additional workload. He estimates the cost savings to Prairie Public at \$70,000 per year.

DFC Consultants

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