

ROCC Newsletter

Target chamber for the HELEN laser, which is used to simulate the reactions that take place in a nuclear explosion.



Time & Money Saved by Document Scanning at AWE

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plus news in brief of ROCC's latest contracts

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The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is the government-owned organisation, which designs, develops and builds atomic weapons for deterrent purposes. It is responsible for some of the most advanced research work in the world. But it is still a business, suffering the same pressures and having the same requirements as any other organisation.

Since 1994, it has been a 'GOCO' - a 'Government Owned, Contractor Operated' organisation. This means that, while ultimate responsibility is with the Ministry of Defence, AWE is run by a contractor consortium company called HuntingBRAE. HuntingBRAE is a combination of Hunting Engineering, Brown and Root and AEA (Technology).

At the heart of any business are the people; AWE, based in town-sized sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield, both near Reading, employs about 5000 people. Once a week most of them complete a timesheet indicating precisely how they have spent their working day. Until 1997, these timesheets were manually completed, taken to a department administrator and then taken by

hand from every building to the central computer processing department to be keyed in and processed. This took a lot of time, a great deal of effort and was at no small cost - people and vehicles travelling around all day to gather and deliver paperwork, plus processing time.

...recover the cost within first year

All this has been replaced by document scanning and automated transfer of data to the finance department, using ROCC SEECHECK Recognition software running on 40 scanning stations across the sites. The estimated saving will enable AWE to recover the cost of the system within the first year of operation.

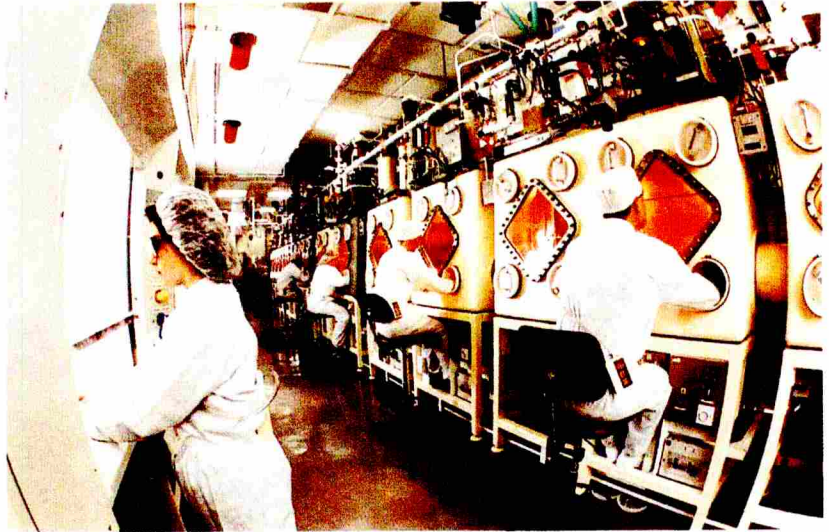


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Savings...

A modern glove-box line ensures radiation doses to employees are kept to a minimum.

According to Dave Murray, AWE's operational systems support manager: "In 1994 when we reviewed many of our business methods, our timesheet management system was a clear contender for urgent action. We needed not only to greatly simplify and speed up the processes involved, but also to ensure much greater accuracy. We could then roll out the costs for all projects gaining a clearer picture of actual staff costs and to better organise future requirements."



AWE's Aldermarston site covers more than 700 acres in West Berkshire.

...ROCC offered the best value

Specifications were drawn up in 1995, the contract went out to tender and the ROCC SEECHECK Recognition system

400 or more, two scanners are provided in that facility.

...we can deal with queries immediately

Murray describes the way the system works now: "Timesheets still have to be completed, of course, but they can be typed directly into the system or passed to facility administrators in handwritten format for scanning. This happens every Monday, with different departments allocated different times of day to enter

their data so that the system can cope most efficiently. The system then checks the data against all costs centres, project codes, management information and flags any queries for immediate reconsideration and amendments.

The data is then automatically passed to the ABC (Accounting and Budgetary Control) computer system in the finance department for processing. They in turn can decide what time of day to work on which facility's data, so better organising their workload."

Murray continues: "Now we can avoid the risk of inaccuracies resulting from converting handwritten data. We can deal with queries immediately so that inaccuracies do not creep into the system later on or cause payment problems and ultimately incorrect job costings. Enormous amounts of time - and therefore money - are saved."

Because of the size of the AWE sites, the physical spread of the ROCC SEECHECK Recognition system did cause some concerns in terms of speed and performance at first: these have been satisfactorily addressed.



was chosen in 1996 after lengthy technical and supplier effectiveness evaluation. "ROCC was chosen because it offered the best value for money", says Murray. The system was installed during 1997 and became fully operational in November. Now the forty scanning stations cope with up to 200 timesheets per hour. The number of stations is based on the number of people in each facility: one station is expected to be sufficient for around 300 people but if there are

Murray: "...Enormous amounts of time - and therefore money - are saved"



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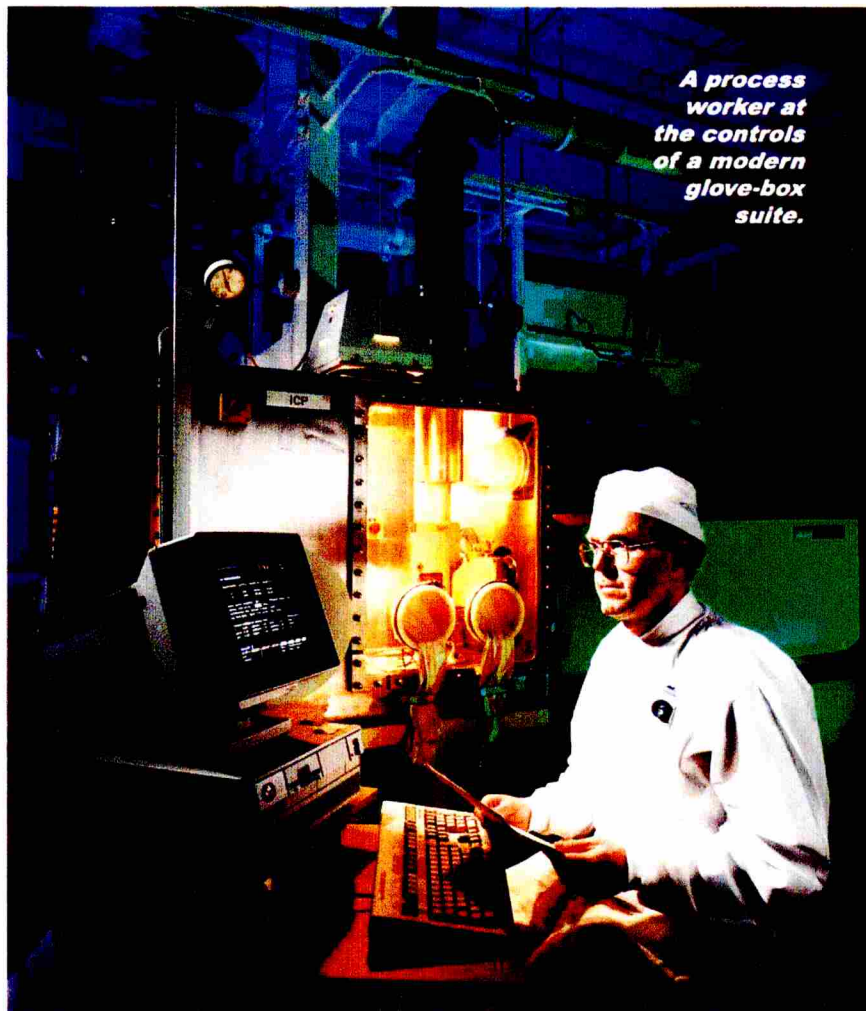
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For employees, the new system is much simpler and quicker, they have fewer rejected timesheets because of the standardisation of forms and the concise codings used. Previously they would have had to re-do their forms if problems were found - even if that problem had crept in at the data preparation point, not at the employee source.

...immediate time and cost saving

For AWE as an organisation, the major benefit is the immediate time and cost saving. It also benefits from improved cash flow because the MoD is billed earlier and payment can therefore be made more quickly.

For the future, Dave Murray sees other potential applications for the system: "The scanners can undoubtedly be used for a number of other applications; we have built in the capacity to maximise this investment. We are, for example, looking at the archiving of historical documents, with additional suitable bulk storage media. The task for AWE is to review its overall strategy and see what other areas could benefit from flexible, high performance document scanning and management systems."



A process worker at the controls of a modern glove-box suite.

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Scanning Ensures High Standards for Eurocamp



Eurocamp is the leading self-drive camping and mobile home holiday operator in Europe, with a total of 187 holiday destinations in 13 countries and 290,000 customers in 1996. Eurocamp Plc recorded sales of £104.7 million during the same year and incorporates five different brand names and products: Eurocamp Travel, Sunsites, French Country Camping, EuroVillages and Superbreak.

Pasterkamp: "...chose a SEECHECK system because the product was well proven"



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