



CASE STUDY - PRS PROJECT REPORTING SYSTEM

NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

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Allocation and dissemination of €700m annually through the NTA's capital grant management system

The National Transport Authority (NTA) is a statutory non-commercial body operating under the aegis of the Department of Transport. Established in 2009, the NTA is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to provide high quality, accessible, sustainable transport across Ireland.

Each year, the NTA receive a capital funding allocation from the Department of Transport. The NTA's Transport Planning & Investment Department (TPI) oversees the allocation of capital funds to external agencies and bodies for the delivery of public transport projects. The NTA's Capital Programme Office ("CPO") (as part of the NTA's Transport Planning & Investment Department) administers the allocation of capital funds to external agencies and bodies.

NTA engaged OpenSky to develop and deliver an online shared Project Reporting System (PRS) that would integrate into their pre-existing finances portal and enable automation to manage the processes for approving and allocating payments for project applications.

Today, the completely rebuilt PRS is used in a wide variety of transport and accessibility infrastructure projects (including the Dublin Area Rapid Transit, Luas, and Metro projects) and by many government organisations, including The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), Department of Transport (DOT), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann and others.



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SITUATION

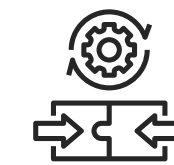
The National Transport Authority required a digital platform that could integrate into their existing finance portal to manage the allocation and dissemination of NTA capital grant funding to external agencies.

The system needed to provide the NTA authorities with a detailed, top-down understanding of public grants payments drawing from all existing NTA public projects data. It needed to be fast and reliable with a heightened level of data security to adhere to regulatory compliance.

It would also need to include a high level of automation to support seamless data transfer from the user to the financing portal, in order to eliminate the 'swivel chair' effect, reduce human errors, and support the generation of multi-annual reporting drawing from all available NTA public projects data.

Finally, the system needed an intuitive design that streamlined the management of new and existing projects, with functionality that enabled project managers and supervisors to easily add and track new projects without the requirement of unnecessary external support.

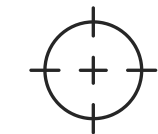
KEY REQUIREMENTS



Integration to Existing
Finances Portal



High level of Data
& Platform Security



100% Data Accuracy



Multi-Annual Reporting



Intuitive & Accessible Design

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THE SOLUTION

PRS - Capital Grant Management System

In August 2021 OpenSky delivered the Project Reporting System (PRS) to the National Transport Authority.









PRS is a completely rebuilt system for the NTA that is both intuitive and modern, allowing finance officers greater control over project payment processes. This cloud-based platform features automated reporting, accessibility, and extensive functionality that allows the NTA to more effectively manage and report on public grant payments for projects.

The system allows a simple and fast way to manage, approve, and report on all parts of project expenditure in NTA projects, freeing up Finance officers to work on more important tasks. PRS is now a standardised platform that oversees public grants and payment processes for a large number of private and public organisations engaged in projects with the NTA. The intuitive portal enables external project partners of the NTA to register on the system quickly & easily.

At its core, PRS features best-practice modern architecture, resulting in a future-proofed platform that will easily support additional functionality, integrations and features to be developed over the course of time.

Today, PRS is used to manage public project payment approvals and the capital grants payment system, which has an annual budget of over €700 million.

KEY FEATURES & BENEFITS

-  **INCREASED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY**
Project management teams save time and are free to take on more important tasks, thanks to improved system access and data processing speed, as well as automated reporting functionality with instant and simultaneous generation of live and retrospective reports.
-  **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**
Automated integration with the existing finance portal and detailed record-keeping make it easier to plan, track, trace, and report on all expenditure in NTA projects in accordance with regulatory requirements.
-  **INCREASED PROJECT APPROVAL TIME**
PRS now features improved search functionality, more complex and detailed documentation processes, and automated notifications within the project approval process, meaning faster approvals and payment for projects with easier project management.
-  **24/7 PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
PRS is cloud-based, allowing finance officers to manage cases and payments easily and at any time, even outside the office.
-  **IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT & SECURITY**
Improved risk management, data reporting, standardised data structures, and industry-standard data security
-  **REDUCED TECHNICAL DEBT**
PRS was built using industry-standard architecture, reducing technical debt, and future-proofing the system for further upgrades and additions.
-  **BETTER LONG-TERM PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
The upgrades to PRS include multi-annual reporting that draw on all public projects data to date, allowing greater top-down insights into all public projects and expenditure, significantly improving long-term project management and reporting.
-  **ONE-CLICK AUTOMATED REPORTING**
PRS now enables individual users to generate detailed and highly customised reports at the click of a button, reducing previous excessive time and effort required to manually submit coded data queries to a support team.



KEY PERFORMANCE

- *The Automated Integration with Agresso has decreased the integration from a previous 6 hours to a vastly improved 2 hours.*
- *The Monthly Spend Report took roughly 4-5 days to create - this time has been cut in half.*
- *75% Reduction in time to produce Ad Hoc Reports.*

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Head Office

OpenSky Data Systems, Kildare, Ireland

Website: openskydata.com

Email: info@openskydata.com | Phone: +353-45-855675

International Offices

OpenSky Data Systems, Katowice, Poland

OpenSky Data Systems, Poznan, Poland

OpenSky Data Systems, Karnataka, India