

“It’s crazy how fast time flies and how things progress.”

Nathan Chen

Shuttle System Handover



A key milestone was reached on 18th May when supplier TGW handed over the Stingray shuttle and conveyor systems to the Hachette UK Distribution business following successful technical testing.

The picture above shows Kris Jepson from TGW handing over to Project Director Andy Davies alongside other members of the team who have been involved in the work that has led us to this point.

While the Hachette project team is now leading further testing activities, staff from TGW will remain on site until the go-live to provide support.

Eden Events

A day was held at the Hely Hutchinson Centre for existing third-party distribution clients on 21st May, which was attended by representatives from 11 publishers.

In addition to a tour of the warehouse, the new Publisher App and Cognos reporting solutions were presented and were well received.

An open day for customers was also held in May, where booksellers from both independents and high street chains visited the warehouse in a series of organised tours which were run throughout the day.

To cover another set of stakeholders in the industry, representatives from the Society of Authors visited the warehouse on 23rd May.



Progress Update

A series of showcase sessions covering publishing and finance processes were held at Carmelite House in late May. These formed part of System Integration Testing, where processes that involve interactions between systems have been tested by business users.

User Acceptance Testing focussing on detailed business testing started on 11th June and runs until early July.

A series of regression tests has been executed by the project team to confirm that the new Eden developments have not adversely impacted any current processes in SAP, Biblio and Vista. Representatives from the business will also perform tests later in June.

The project team is running a ‘dress rehearsal’ during June and early July. This will enact the step by step activities for the first go-live for Octopus in August to confirm the sequence and timings of events.

The View from the Top

A fleet of forklifts was delivered recently and these are being tested to ensure safe loading and unloading of stock to the bulk racking area.

During a visit in May, Hachette UK’s CEO David Shelley bravely went up in a forklift, going up to the highest racking space at 18 metres.

At this level, we have one of the highest manual picking operations for any product in the UK.

This is considerably higher than our current locations at Bookpoint and LBS, which go up to 11 metres.



Meet the Project Team

Anita Somal

Data Migration Lead



Anita re-joined Hachette in May to take on the management of the data migration workstream. She has previously worked with the group on the implementation of the SAP finance systems in 2012.

Anita and her team have recently prepared data for User Acceptance Testing and they will now work on preparatory activities for the cutover to live.

Eden on Strike!

The project team have been working particularly hard this year as we build up to the first go-live for Octopus in the summer.



To help them let off steam, a bowling competition was held on 23rd May in nearby Oxford.

Congratulations to Warehouse Management Systems tester Krislyn Aedma, who pipped Keytree project manager David Hudson to the title.

The picture below shows many of the 50 team members who took part in the event.

