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ECAR SHARING SCHEME

Mark Daly, Deirdre Arthur and Conor O'Brien, ecars Team

ESB ecars developed an electric car sharing scheme for staff travelling on business, saving over €57,000 in taxi and mileage expenses, and reducing CO2 emissions by 4,000 tonnes per annum.

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BOOSTING PERFORMANCE AND REVENUE BY HARNESSING DATA

John Joe O'Sullivan and Sean McMahon, Generation and Wholesale Markets

Through a project initiated by Billy Condon, ESB Trading and the Ardnacrusha team launched a profiling tool that pinpoints the best time to sell energy in the wholesale market, leading to a revenue increase of over 7% for the station since May 2012.

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RECOVERING OIL FROM POOLBEG: SAVING MONEY AND RESOURCES

Niall McGeorge and Brian Clarke, Generation and Wholesale Markets.

Our cross-business team secured a buyer for 90 kilotonnes of heavy fuel oil from Poolbeg's old thermal station. Then they designed and installed temporary systems that ran safely and reliably 24/7, offloading the oil to waiting tankers in Dublin Port for timely onward delivery.

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GPS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS TANZANIA NETWORK EXTENSIONS

Francois Pienaar, ESB International

A codified GPS system was developed for the design of network extension projects in Tanzania, enabling site staff to capture line route information and features that might effect the constructability of the network. The data was then relayed to the office for validation, superimposing on maps, and for quantifying materials - resulting in an efficient and cost-effective way to design networks in remote locations.

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EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER CARE

Carmel Geaney and Pat Philpott, ESB Networks

ESB Networks Customer Care Centre continues to enhance its customer service through the use of social media and a range of online services. This strengthens our high tech call response and broadens all channels of communication.

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GPS TECHNOLOGY RESPONDING TO MARKET NEEDS AND OPTIMISING VALUE

Jeremy Letts and Gary Palmer, Generation and Wholesale Markets

Following analysis by Corby Station and ESB Trading, the plant has been reconfigured to run in open cycle mode. This has allowed Corby to become a rapid energy responder for the UK's National Grid, while retaining its Environmental Agency licence. Profitability for the open turbines has reached over £9M since making this change. 'The Little Big Things' celebrates the little and big ideas developed by our staff that positively impact our business.

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EXPANDING OUR NETWORK TO WIN NEW CUSTOMERS

Gareth Winders, Pat Walsh and Keith Conlon, ESB Telecoms Ltd.

ESB Telecom's national fibre infrastructure is being extended into customer locations using microwave links resulting in a tripling of the bandwidth. This is a new and exciting product for our customers.

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NEW DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN MONEYPPOINT

Paul Moran, ESB International

The introduction of drones to monitor coal stocks and model substations in 3D has led to a faster and easier inspection process resulting in productivity gains and a more efficient use of resources.

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FINE-TUNING CAPACITY, IMPROVING REVENUE

Kevin O'Donoghue, Gerard Stapleton, Generation and Wholesale Markets

Installing a device to monitor weather in real time means Aghada Station can finesse the maximum available megawatts (MW) for each unit. On average, each open cycle turbine can now declare another 4MW year round, while the combined cycle turbine can declare an extra 2MW.

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ENABLING IRELAND'S FASTEST FIBRE BROADBAND NETWORK

Ciarán Walsh and Brendan Walsh, ESB Networks

A new piece of equipment was developed to integrate fibre onto the electricity network, supporting the roll out of Ireland's fastest fibre broadband service. The clever design of attachment brackets ensures that the network is not impacted by the fibre and remains accessible for maintenance.

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INNOVATIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT TOOL

John Byrne and Neil Quinn, ESB International

A 3D engineering and building data tool was introduced offering engineers an innovative way to collaborate during the lifecycle of a project - resulting in a 20-30% saving on design time and a 10-15% saving on overall project costs.

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KEEPING ESB STAFF CONNECTED

Mick Aherne, Jean O'Hanrahan and Mark Fowler,
Business Service Centre

An "On the Move" app was developed for employees, providing contact information on ESB staff services and organisations.

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POWERCHECK APP LIVE UPDATES FOR CUSTOMERS

Charlie Horkan, Business Service Centre, Eamonn McWalter and Teresa Lynch, ESB Networks and Paul McNamara, Business Service Centre

The PowerCheck App provides customers with online information on all planned and unplanned power supply interruptions and projected restoration times. Since its launch, the app has reached over one million hits.

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NEW INNOVATIVE PYLON DESIGN

Peter Ennis and Jarlath Doyle,
ESB International

ESB International designed the Y-pylon, an innovative 400 kV structure which aims to improve the aesthetics of the traditional lattice steel tower. A far more appealing architectural design, it has a smaller physical footprint and its visual impact is minimised due to the transparency of the pylon material.

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POWERING KINDNESS ACROSS IRELAND

Edel McCarthy, Lindsay Sharpe,
Electric Ireland

Powering Kindness Week is an initiative that was designed to encourage the people of Ireland to do an act of kindness and bank it in favour of one of three Irish charities to share in the prize fund of €130,000.

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RAISING FUNDS IN TIMES OF FINANCIAL MARKET UNCERTAINTY

John McDermott, Legal, and Shane O'Sullivan,
Generation and Wholesale Markets

In 2011 and 2012, ESB sold CO₂ European Emission allowances for €100 million with an agreement to buy back at a fixed price the next year - raising funds at a competitive interest rate during difficult financial market conditions.

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INNOVATING TO REDUCE FINANCIAL RISK

Ronan McCoy, Niamh Quinn, Fergus Sheils, Peter Murphy,
Generation and Wholesale Markets.

After analysing the relationship between power prices and gas/carbon prices, ESB Trading sold forward gas and carbon as a proxy for the sale of power. This means that ESB has locked in a margin of €160M for 2014 and 2015 – making us more attractive to lenders and ratings agencies.

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STORE DESIGN OPTIMISATION

Damian Carroll, ESB Networks

Damian improved the process for material delivery, storage and access of the store by studying the way employees and vehicles used the space. He designed a new store layout, resulting in a safer and more efficient workplace.

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SAVING TIME AND MONEY WITH ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Caroline Winters, Paul McQuaid, Ross Manning and Deirdre Cowler,
Finance Operations

A new software package called Caseware was introduced to standardise and automate ESB's statutory accounts process, making savings of €20,000 a year.

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NETWORK VOLTAGE TRIALS DEMONSTRATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Clem Power, Ellen Diskin and Gerard O'Mahony, ESB Networks

ESB Networks conducted trials on urban and rural networks that serve 12,000 customers. The results showed that by tightly managing and reducing the voltage of the medium voltage network, customers could save up to 2.0% in energy efficiency.

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IMPROVING VAT RECOVERY

Marie Brauders and Patricia Curtin, Business Service Centre

ESB was under-recovering VAT on corporate procurement card spends due to the non-return of invoices for VAT recording. It was identified that the business units lacked access to updated late returns and were therefore unable to police this issue with accurate information. In response to this, a new SAP report was provided to give updated information that business units could monitor independently - resulting in improved VAT recovery across the company.

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