

Sheffield, UK - Sheffield Innovation Centre-based digital technology company DRTS Ltd has secured a €1 million EU research grant to further develop a software platform which could see digital SMEs competing together for complex contracts normally awarded only to the international software giants.

Under the guidance of managing director Jeff Allan, DRTS has developed a software suite which enables innovative solutions to problems anticipating them before they develop into crises. It can be used in businesses and organisations as diverse as the police, hospitals and the financial sector.



Allan Wood discusses DRTS's next step with Jeff Allan (left)

"It's all about data management, analysis, visualisation and acting on the results," explained Jeff who, with his five-strong team of Sheffield IT specialists, has just moved into bigger offices in UK Steel Enterprise's Innovation Centre at Portobello.

He wants to create the first SME hub in the city giving their digital platform to software companies with specific talents to enable them, working together, to bid for major contracts normally well out of their individual reach.

"By bringing together specific digital expertise we can have a virtual company with all the capability that the major software companies offer in-house. On their own SMEs cannot bid for such work, but together there is talent enough in Sheffield to be able to compete ... and win!"

And his aspirations do not end there. The platform can be used globally, so expertise from around the world can be harnessed in the same way to meet many complex business needs in a wide variety of industries.

Jeff moved into new technology as a natural step from programming computer-controlled machinery in traditional engineering industries where companies have died because they would not change and innovate. He feels very strongly about the opportunities now open to Sheffield to be a leader in the new technology field.

"Our world is changing very fast," he commented. "The Internet and digital media is now so much a part of our lives, both business and personal. But we must not miss the opportunities that are out there. There is no time to be negative about change, we must embrace it. I travel regularly across the world and the technology changes I see in other countries astounds me. If we do not act now we will be left well behind."

He went on: "Our primary markets are in the financial, medical and oil and gas sectors and our DACORD product is helping operators of complex, high value assets get better performance and better use of their resources. It gives management a powerful tool to easily understand, resolve and balance the interaction between their various activities and systems successfully. In other words, using our software platform, they can anticipate problems and deal with them before they materialise. Companies interested should look at our website www.drts.co.uk."

Innovation Centre manager and UK Steel Enterprise executive Allan Wood commented, "DRTS's plan to get local digital SMEs working together as a hub is a fantastic opportunity for local firms and could help make those companies which become involved something to be reckoned with globally."