

Mainstream Renewable Power & Storm Technology:

Putting People and Technology at the Heart of Global Success



Introduction

When your business operates across borders, continents, cultures and languages, communication must be your number one priority. Effective and reliable communication and accurate real-time information presents a challenge for many international companies.

For Mainstream Renewable Power, a global renewable energy developer, with a footprint in Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa, Asia/Pacific and Australia – often developing its large scale projects in remote locations – seamless collaboration and engagement is critical.

Recognised as leaders in the renewable energy industry, Mainstream is also an innovator in the information technology space. As an early pioneer of a pure-Microsoft cloud ecosystem, Mainstream won a global award in 2019 from ICMG for its “Sustainable Digital Transformation” program.

Mainstream’s future-focused investment in the full Microsoft cloud technology stack has not only enhanced operational capabilities – it also meant that the rapid transition to full-time remote working during COVID-19 was a seamless transition and very much “business as usual”.

The Challenge

With offices around the world, Mainstream needed a high-quality video and audio-conferencing facility to coordinate between disciplines in HQ in Ireland, the regional platforms around the globe where renewable energy projects are being developed, and the partner and supplier network involved in project delivery.

With large volumes of documentation, meetings and project schedules being regularly reviewed, it was essential that all parties were informed at every stage.

With Mainstream expanding into new markets, the technology needed to be accessible from anywhere – to support first-mover advantage in those countries.

"We were already fully invested in the Microsoft cloud technology stack. What Microsoft Teams enabled was for us to bring the insights from all the individual MS technologies and present them in the context where our users needed them. To paraphrase Lord of the Rings, Microsoft Teams is "one technology to rule them all" !

— Mark Kane, Global Head of Information Solutions, Mainstream Renewable Power

The Solution

Mainstream implemented numerous lines of business solutions to meet varying business needs, which it was able to build based on its singular Microsoft ecosystem. Having all underlying technologies cloud-based allowed the organisation to easily scale capacity and reach – without the large hardware costs and lead-times associated with physical on-premise networks and infrastructure.

Working with SharePoint as a single version of the truth meant that teams across Mainstream's offices could access the right documents at any time. However, as English is not the native language of some overseas teams at Mainstream, it was important that localised versions of Microsoft solutions were available too.

Storm Technology also delivered Project Web Application (PWA), providing a system of record for all energy project plans, following a standard project structure and toll-gating model, with insights presented through Power BI dashboards.



The Microsoft Partner

Storm Technology is one of Ireland's most respected Microsoft Certified Gold Partners. With years of experience across a host of different technologies, Storm works closely with customers to deliver solutions that meet core business needs.

One key specialism that Storm has is the ability to develop tools beyond their initial use case to help clients drive their digital transformation ambitions. Focused on establishing strong long-term relationships with clients, Storm prides itself on embracing emerging technologies and using Microsoft products to make development as sophisticated and cost effective as possible.



The Result

Over the past five years, Mainstream has consistently drawn increasing value from the technologies delivered. The company has continued working with Storm to streamline solutions as Software-as-a-Service technologies have rolled out new and enhanced functionality.

With all data and information now stored in the cloud and accessible via Microsoft Teams, everything can be easily shared across offices – with Teams' high-quality audio and video conferencing used to connect employees in place of travel, consistent with Mainstream's core sustainability values

When the COVID-19 crisis hit worldwide, the early investment that Mainstream made with Storm has

been pivotal in enabling the entire company to transition seamlessly to remote working.

A strong long-term strategy has been key to Mainstream Renewable Power's success in the renewable energy market, and this approach is echoed throughout the business – including in its commitment to digital transformation.

As the business looks confidently towards the future, innovation remains crucial. Given the company's ongoing investment in technology and in its people, and thanks to the strong support from Storm Technology, Mainstream is engineering its own blueprint for international growth and success.

"Storm really understands our holistic approach to technology and the architectural principles that we adhere to. The team not only understands our business, but they bring great ideas to the table as well."

— Mark Kane, Global Head of Information Solutions, Mainstream Renewable Power



Customer information

Customer name	Mainstream Renewable Power
Customer website	www.mainstreamrp.com
Microsoft Bizz App Product	Business Apps – Finance and Operations
Industry	Renewable Energy
Country	Ireland



Partner information

Partner name	Storm Technology Ltd
Partner website	www.storm.ie
Country	Ireland