

Science Foundation Ireland



Fondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann
Science Foundation Ireland

Flexibility of SmartSimple's RMS360° solution powers growth for a rapidly expanding research institute

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- Donal Keane, COO, Science Foundation Ireland

About Science Foundation Ireland

Science Foundation Ireland's (SFI) mission is to promote Ireland's society and economy by supporting the best scientific and engineering research, while building an awareness of the role, impact and opportunities science creates.

The Challenge

Founded in 2001, SFI was a relatively young organization at the time, and for their first five years of operation had no formal system in place for the creation, submission, reporting, tracking and awarding of research grants. This was a particular issue for a foundation that grew from 11 awards in their first year to several hundred per year. "At any given time, we're managing about 600 live awards with a value of approximately €460 million (\$512 million)," says Donal Keane, COO of SFI.

"We needed a system that was reflective of a foundation that was growing. What we had was a modified version of a particular program that wasn't especially flexible. The biggest problem was that it wasn't web-based, so every time we put out a call, applications would need to be downloaded to the system and then uploaded again for our researchers; not exactly efficient or state-of-the-art!"



Donal Keane, COO
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Selecting SmartSimple

SFI's first impression of the SmartSimple system was extremely positive. **"SmartSimple definitely had the most flexible platform. The competition only offered an 'out of the box' solution, while SmartSimple's presentation showed us not only the functionality of their software, but the passion and commitment to shape the system we wanted.** It was very clear what SmartSimple would be able to do for us."

Working with SmartSimple

SmartSimple rose to – and overcame – every challenge SFI's requirements presented. "From the very early stages of the implementation process, we could see functionality that was emerging and how flexible the system was. It was clear to us that SmartSimple's promises would really be delivered on."

SFI continues to work closely with SmartSimple's team in Dublin. "We have regular conversations about how much better and more clear processes have become. The Support Team is very familiar with our specific system, so we know we can get the help we need whenever we need it."

"SmartSimple has massively improved practically every department at SFI. Everything that relates to grants is done in the system, so we can manage calls for new proposals, administer review panel meetings, award grant and track them over their lifetime from both a scientific and financial angle.

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We don't use paper for anything anymore. Virtually everything relating to our reporting and funding is done through SmartSimple; it even integrates with our accounting software so reviewers can submit expenses directly through their own portals and be reimbursed more quickly. SmartSimple offers the ultimate in transparency."

"Having a fully integrated system that joins departments, processes and programs across global partnerships gives us the ability to do the live, real time budgeting that is critical to our research granting model. We keep looking for new ways we can use SmartSimple to automate even more of our processes."

About RMS360°

SmartSimple's RMS360° is a robust, end-to-end Research Management System that gives you the ability to oversee the entire research process from initial expression of interest to on-going, multi-year reporting. A cloud-based platform, RMS360° offers seamless collaboration between your research organization and all associated stakeholders. From data collection and analysis, to integration of international standards and best practices, RMS360° is endlessly configurable, streamlining every step in your research grants management process.

About SmartSimple

SmartSimple software helps research organizations connect with their applicants, reviewers, board members and internal teams online. SmartSimple's platform is endlessly configurable, offering highly flexible tracking and reporting of your data. Our cloud-based system means you save time, paper and resources - no more printing and shipping of reviewer documentation, applicant communications or board reports. Everything can be created, managed and stored online, making it accessible from anywhere through individualized user portals. That means your community members see what they need in the way you want them to see it.

To learn more, visit www.smartsimple.com and request a demo. Alternatively, you can reach us by email at sales@smartsimple.com or call +353.(0)1.554.7428 (for Europe) or toll-free 866.239.0991 (for North America).