DATACONNECT

EDUCATION
CYBER ESSENTIALS
CASE STUDY

Business Size

800+

Service

vSOC CERT

Customer Since

2020

DATACONNECT

THE
HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge
The organisation was looking to attract quality contracts from both the governments and industry, and Cyber Essentials is a key requirement in most applications.

Solution
Through its detailed questionnaire process, Data Connect gained a deeper understanding of the client's security profile and ambitions and was able to highlight the necessary 'work ons' required in order for the client to become accredited.

Results
With Data Connect's support, the group's head IT infrastructure and his team gained Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation, he clarified:

"We work in such a complex environment that we needed significant expertise to lean on. Data Connect provided the in-depth know-how needed to support us in achieving successful accreditation and that has been a game-changer for our group."
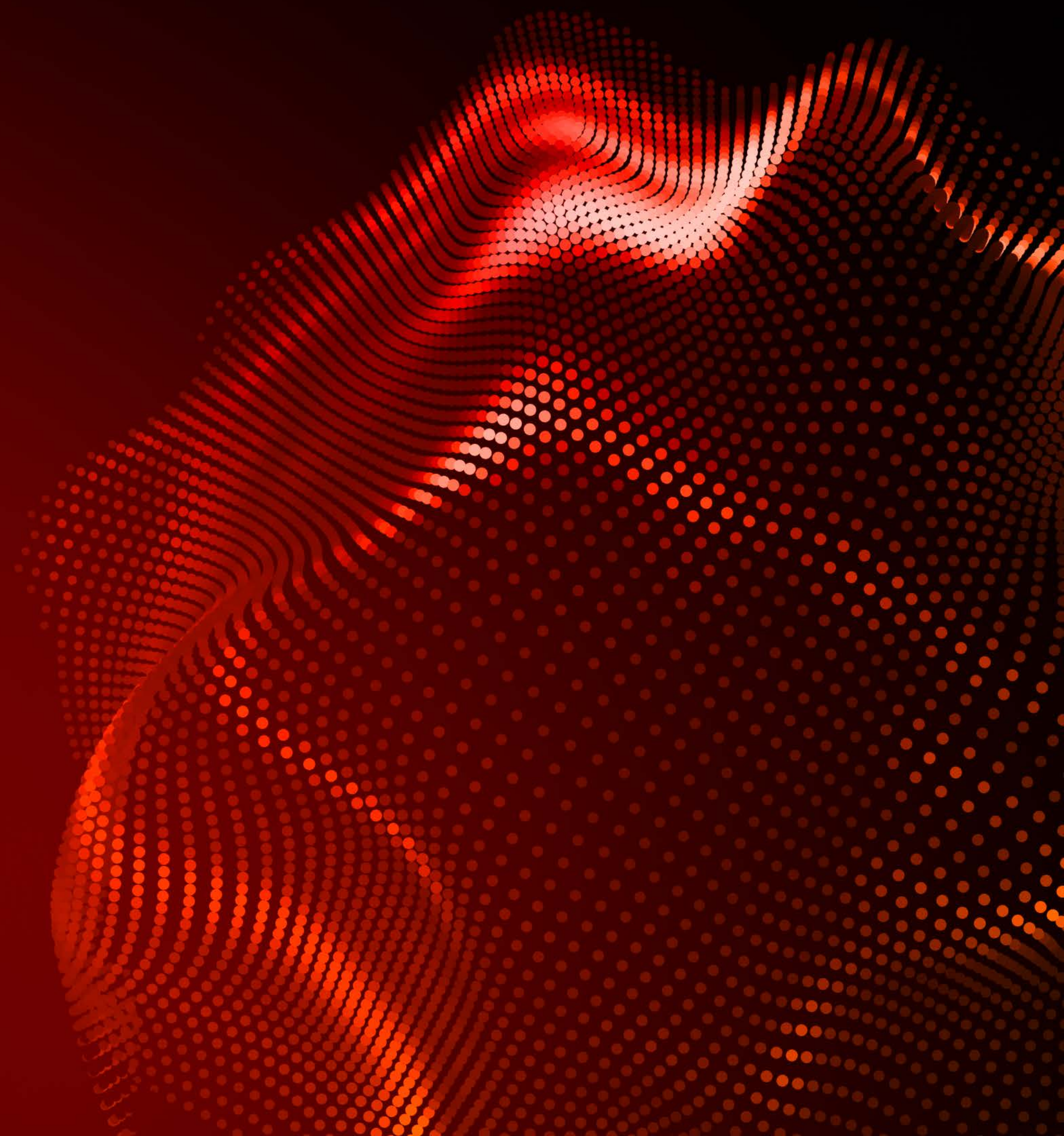
Head of IT Infrastructure, Leading UK University

35%

Organisations were initially certified because of government contract requirements.

THE
BACKGROUND

Data Connect's client is a major academic department in a world-renowned university in the UK, successful for their collaboration between academia, the public and private sectors. The group has established an enviable reputation for driving innovation in science, technology and engineering within research and industry.

How Data Connect helped a university department to fuel its growth by gaining access to major contract opportunities.

As part of its growth strategy, the group identified the critical need to attain Cyber Essentials accreditation, which is increasingly becoming a mandatory requirement for both funding and significant new-tender opportunities.

The group's head of IT infrastructure, who's also its lead architect, was already familiar with Data Connect, which had worked with the university's business school previously and helped it acquire its Cyber Essentials accreditation. He told us this:

"Proof of concept already existed, so Data Connect was the logical choice for us."

43%

Higher education institutions reported experiencing a breach or attack at least weekly.

THE
CHALLENGE

"As a university department, the group is out of the ordinary in some ways, as its IT system is kept relatively separate and in the hands of its own IT team. We advised the team on how they could take advantage of the central university IT services whilst still maintaining strong controls over their own threat landscape."

Simon Kean, director at Data Connect

Arguably, the biggest challenge for the group was scoping Cyber Essentials to ensure it met the specific regulatory requirements mandated to provide robust protection against cyber threats and to elevate the group's position to gain access to significant growth opportunities.

THE
SOLUTION

After an initial consultation to establish the group's objectives, Data Connect provided access to its portal. This contained questionnaires about the organisation's current security profile and ambitions.

After submitting these to Data Connect, they were able to highlight the necessary 'work ons' and demonstrate the improvements that needed to be made to become accredited, as the client explained:

"Data Connect's Cyber Essentials portal was an invaluable resource for us and contained all the tools needed to achieve successful accreditation, including carefully structured questionnaires to help us pinpoint areas where enhancements in our security profile were required."

Head of IT Infrastructure, Leading UK University

79%

Certified organisations believe that the scheme has a positive impact on the confidence of their stakeholders.

Data Connect offered guidance on legislation and what it actually means in the context of the work the group does, and it helped the group understand what the requirements mean in the real world.

When asked about his experience of working with Data Connect, the group's head of IT infrastructure and lead architect commented:

"The team at Data Connect are knowledgeable, professional and very straight forward to deal with. In the world of IT security, teams are often risk adverse by nature, and this can make them challenging to work with. This isn't the case with Data Connect; due to the level of their experience, they were able to instil real confidence. They possessed the all-important ability to understand the 'art' and not just the 'science' and what we were trying to achieve in the real world."

THE
RESULTS

- Cyber Essentials Plus success: The Data Connect team helped the group formulate an infrastructure and architecture plan specific to their environment, which has successfully supported their Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation strategy.

- Future-ready infrastructure: Data Connect supported the group in integrating a cyber security infrastructure that meets the elevated demands and complex needs of the specialist sectors they work in.

- Access to major contract opportunities: Working with Data Connect and gaining a Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation has enabled the group to bid successfully for governmental work – centrally, regionally and locally.

69%

Certified organisations believe that Cyber Essentials has increased their market competitiveness.

DATACONNECT

Get in touch with our dedicated team to discuss your needs.

Talk to an expert

The Owlery, Spa Bottom Farm, Haggs Road, Follifoot, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1EQ

📞 01423 425 498

✉️ moreinfo@dataconnect.co.uk

🌐 dataconnect.co.uk