



Jim Howell

IF Consultancy Limited

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SUMMARY

IF Consultancy improves performance by getting your systems working to achieve your business goals.

PROFILE

Jim is an experienced senior project and operations manager with a special expertise in the alignment of systems and business strategy.

He developed these skills during his career as an operations manager in Lloyds Bank International, which has been followed by over ten years providing independent consultancy to a wide variety of companies in many different corporate and national cultures.

He has an in depth practical knowledge of project management, extensive financial and business analysis skills, as well as team- leading and coaching skills gained in an international environment.

Jim offers a complete range of business systems alignment services from fitness review to managing implementations and strategy consultancy both in the UK and overseas.

PERSONAL SPECIALISMS

Information and Computing Systems: **ADVANCED:** IT/IS Strategy, System Analysis and Design, Project Management, E-commerce Systems.

Finance & Accounting: **ADVANCED** - Computerised Accounting, Feasibility Studies, Management Systems, Accounting Compliance

Operations Management: **COMPETENT** – Implementation of Change, Process Analysis, Project Planning/Management

Business Strategy & Planning: **COMPETENT** - Business Reviews/Appraisals, Change Management, Cost/Benefit Analysis, E-business Strategy, Strategic Planning/Business Plans.

ADVISORY ROLE (S)

Consultant, Project Manager, Trainer.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Financial Services, Government Organisations, Training Establishments

ORGANISATION SIZE EXPERIENCE

Jim has worked with businesses ranging from small service units of less than 10 staff to national and multi-national companies with a turnover in excess of £500m, as well as with a variety of government and international funding organisations.

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- University of Manchester 1968-1972: BA Hons (French)
- University of Bucharest 1972 – 1973: Postgraduate Certificate in Romanian Studies
- Various training courses including Banking Operations Management and Credit Skills (*Lloyds Bank*) Project Management (*Unisys, Lloyds Bank, Deloitte and Touche*), Consultancy Skills (*Deloitte and Touche*)

LANGUAGE ABILITY

Jim is fluent to business management standard in French, Romanian, German and Italian.

OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE

Jim has spent over fifteen years overseas. He has managed company operations in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Italy, Romania and France and projects in Germany, Belgium, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Bulgaria and Hungary.

CAREER SUMMARY

1. IF Consultancy Limited and IFSC

Established as an independent international financial systems consultant in 1991. Incorporated IF Consultancy as a limited company in 2003

Key Achievements to date:

- Co-ordinator of several complex financial system implementation projects in Europe and the UK which led to improved profits in various multi-site operations by up to 40 % and reduced operating costs by 25% in a major bank
- Advised companies on best way of using technology to improve performance and profits in several locations. This increased return on capital in one case from 5% to 16% and returned a loss making (\$2.5 million) organisation to significant profit in three years
- Refocused an international business to double income to \$2 million pa
- Setting up new procedures and control structures to make best business use of existing IT
 - Reformed a government department, saving \$1 million
 - Doubled profits in a financial institution by persuading the board to align systems with business requirements
- Managing several system identification and procurement projects.
- Setting up and managing systems to control business and systemic risk.
- Ensuring acceptance of new systems by managers and staff.

2. Unisys UK Limited (1987-1991)

Senior Manager – Financial Systems Consultancy

Responsible for providing advice to management on all aspects of policy relating to banking technology software applications, for providing banking training to staff and for liaison with customers to ensure requirements were understood and could be met.

- Led a team to audit two failing projects and recommended action to bring these back within planned budget and time constraints.
- Developed and taught courses to present basic banking concepts to technical and sales staff. This resulted in a 25% reduction in escalation of system support problems.

3. Lloyds Bank International Limited (1973 – 1987)

1985 – 1987 Operations Manager in Taipei and Milan

Responsible for all aspects of internal control, staff and compliance

- Managed change of business strategy and introduced new systems to turn loss making branch into most profitable regional operation.
- Eliminated risk of adverse publicity following dismissal of senior manager

1980 – 1984 Regional Manager Information Systems - Far East division

Responsible for all aspects of a strategic project to introduce automation to five countries forming the Far Eastern division of the bank

- Managed all aspects of the implementation including data migration, training and obtaining acceptance of new systems from managers.
- Ensured that new systems showed a positive financial return expressed as increased efficiency, gain in market share or reduced risk.

1973 – 1980: Junior management posts in France and the UK.