

Case Study

RAVN's Research and Development expertise underpins next generation search at Sky



Challenges

Sky has embarked on a game-changing project to deliver revolutionary search-driven capabilities in its next generation satellite receivers. It is critical the project is delivered on time and to the highest possible standard, but with the highly committed search engineering team pre-occupied with delivering on-going business projects, Sky needed to engage additional cutting edge Research and Development (R&D) resource to be able to deliver the project cost-effectively and on time. They were also aware that to achieve their objectives, they would first need to strengthen their skills in machine learning, search and artificial intelligence algorithms, which was a potential obstacle to success.

Sky were aware of RAVN's expertise in the area of advanced search capabilities and their ability to offer Applied Research & Development services, having worked successfully together on previous projects. After initial discussions, Sky felt confident in RAVN's expertise and engaged them to integrate their research and development consultants into the project.

Simon Driscoll, Search Project Manager at Sky, commented, "Getting RAVN on board was a quick and simple process and we were confident their skills in the areas of search, machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms matched our requirements".

Working with RAVN

Two of RAVN's search specialists began consulting for Sky from September 2013, two days each week. Driscoll commented, "We were happy to have RAVN on board to help us deliver this revolutionary technology. When we started working together we found their consultants had cutting edge ideas and were fantastic at pushing technology to be the best it can be, so we could ensure we were producing the best possible product for our customers to use. Not only was their expertise fundamental to this project but they were very easy to work with".

Driscoll described RAVN's consultants as being both pragmatic problem solvers who were great at switching between the research work and the actual development of the application and were even compared with a "Swiss Army Knife" for their flexibility and adaptability.

Results

Sky have been extremely pleased with the results of the project to date. Driscoll added, "With RAVN's help we have been able to get a head start on production and have actually reduced production costs. RAVN have certainly been excellent value for money". When asked how RAVN has impacted the project, Driscoll replied "Without RAVN we would not have met our deadlines. We now have the utmost confidence in the technologies we are using and the project timescales".