





Centar Surfacing

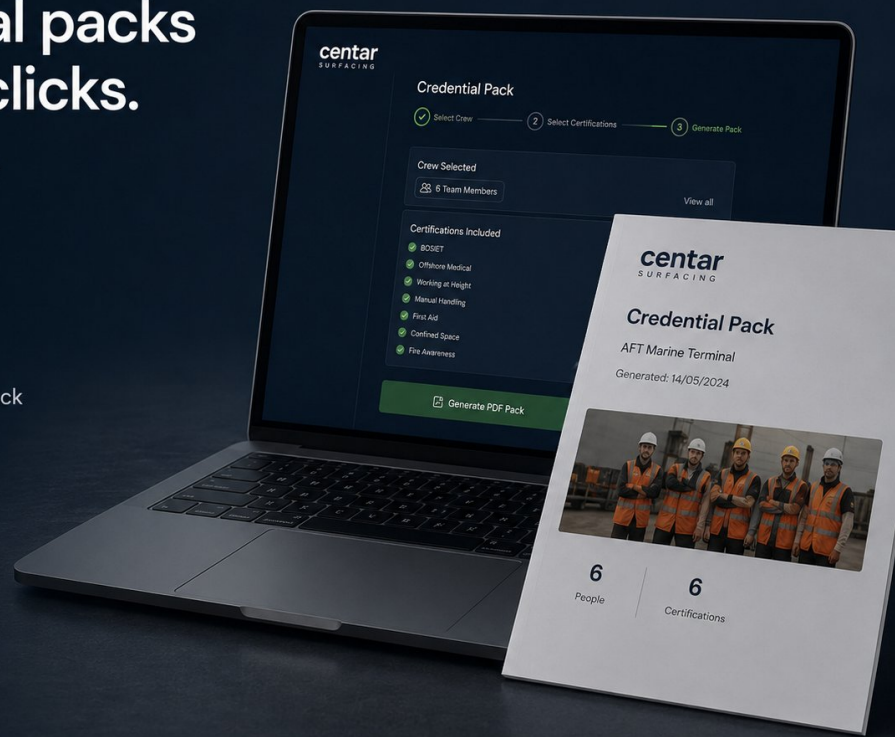
Replacing the Spreadsheet That Ran the Business

— CENTAR SURFACING CASE STUDY —

Credential packs ready in clicks.

The right evidence.
The right format.
Every time.

-  Select crew and certifications
-  Generate PDF pack in seconds
-  Client-ready. Every time.
-  Hours saved. Every week.



SECTOR
Civil Engineering

ENGAGEMENT
Replace

TIMELINE
Weeks to live

EXPIRY TRACKING
Fully automated

CREDENTIAL PACKS
Hours → clicks

DATA SECURITY
PII encrypted

THE CHALLENGE	THE SOLUTION	THE OUTCOME
Workforce compliance tracked in a single Excel spreadsheet. No expiry alerts, PII in an unencrypted file, hours spent assembling credential packs for every job mobilisation.	Bespoke compliance platform with automated expiry alerts, one-click credential packs, a digitised skills matrix, and encrypted employee data with role-based access.	Live and in production. Customer actively requesting expanded scope. Expiry tracking fully automated. Credential pack assembly reduced from hours to clicks.

MAP

Understanding the operation

Centar Surfacing is a UK road surfacing and civil engineering contractor. As a subcontractor on most projects, their commercial reality is straightforward: before any crew mobilises to site, the principal contractor demands proof that every operative is qualified, certified, and legally allowed to work. If you can't prove it in advance, your people don't start.

Centar tracked the entire workforce's training, certifications, and compliance status in a single Excel spreadsheet — supplemented by additional spreadsheets stitched together with VLOOKUPS. Over 35 certification types across health and safety, site competency, plant operation, driving, medical surveillance, and e-learning. The same file also held National Insurance numbers, passport numbers, and dates of birth — personal data sitting in an unencrypted file with no access control and no audit trail.

The spreadsheet silently rotted.

When the data was first migrated into the new system, it immediately surfaced former employees who had left years ago — hidden in collapsed rows that nobody could see. Some data was current. Some was years stale. There was no way to tell which by looking at it.

Nothing raised the alarm.

An expiring CSCS card, an overdue medical, a lapsed Street Works ticket — none of these triggered a notification. Compliance depended entirely on someone remembering to check. If they didn't, an operative could be working on site without valid certification.

The real cost was proving compliance, not tracking it.

Before every job, supervisors had to assemble copies of training records, CSCS and CPCS cards, site management certificates, and personal data packs — each client wanting a slightly different combination. The office maintained a separate VLOOKUP spreadsheet purely to combine these fragments into the format clients demanded. It was a recurring, deadline-driven, manual assembly job that consumed hours every week.

CONNECT

Building the platform

A bespoke web application that replaced the spreadsheet and every workaround built around it. In production within weeks, validated through live customer review, and actively expanding in scope.

Automated expiry alerts.

A compliance dashboard with traffic-light status across every certification type. Expiry alerts at configurable lead times — 7, 30, 60, 90 days — delivered by email to the person responsible for chasing renewals. No more relying on memory.

Credential packs in clicks, not hours.

Select a crew, pick the required certification types, generate a PDF bundle ready to send to the client. The multi-spreadsheet, photocopy-and-collate ritual that consumed the office every time a crew mobilised — replaced by a few clicks.

A skills matrix that captures what the spreadsheet never could.

Centar's real operational advantage is knowing not just who holds a certificate, but who is genuinely skilled. Competencies like raking or operating paver controls have no formal qualification — they lived on a physical whiteboard in the office. The application digitised that whiteboard and made it visible alongside formal certifications for the first time.





Security as a byproduct.


Employee profiles with role-based access, encrypted sensitive fields, and audit logging. The personal data that previously sat exposed in an unencrypted spreadsheet is now properly protected — not because anyone asked for a security project, but because the replacement was built properly from the start.

— CENTAR SURFACING CASE STUDY —

One source of truth for your workforce.

Training, certifications, skills and compliance — all in one place.

-  Complete workforce view at a glance
-  Expiry alerts before they become a problem
-  Secure by design. Audit trail included
-  No more hidden rows. No more stale data.



FORGE

The outcome

The application is live, in production, with the real admin team using it daily. Data was migrated from the original spreadsheet — including cleaning up the hidden rows and stale records that had accumulated over years. The customer didn't have to re-key anything.

The strongest signal is what happened next: the customer immediately began requesting additional scope — card photo uploads, site induction data packs, integration with their existing job-pack system. That's customer pull, not vendor push.

Why bespoke beat off-the-shelf.

Generic HR and training platforms don't model how a subcontractor actually operates. Crews are named after their foreman, change composition weekly, and regularly get mixed when someone's on holiday. The compliance evidence each client demands comes in different formats and combinations. The informal skill picture that determines who goes where has no field in any standard HR system.

A bespoke application mirrors the actual business — named crews with leaders and sort order, client-specific credential pack configurations, a skills matrix alongside formal certifications. The team

didn't have to change how they work. They stopped maintaining the spreadsheet and started using a system that works the way they already think.

Centar owns the platform, the data, and the code. No per-seat fees. No vendor lock-in.

Alden Foundry replaces the fragmented spreadsheets and disconnected tools that mid-market UK companies have outgrown. If your business runs on a compliance spreadsheet that one person maintains — and you're not entirely sure it's right — we should talk.

aldenfoundry.com/contact