



# Trusted systems that **power** Firstco forward

## **Lower costs, higher stability and room for continued growth**

Firstco needed to migrate three business-critical systems to a modern, serverless platform before SQL Server 2017 reached end of life. The challenge demanded a seamless transition, no downtime and a cost-effective alternative to rising licence and hosting fees. Spark Data delivered a smooth, disruption-free migration that strengthened performance, reduced operational spend and gave Firstco full confidence in the future of their core systems.

## A systems specialist trusted in critical environments

Firstco is a London-based systems engineering company specialising in mission-critical control and communication systems across transportation, power management and large-scale infrastructure. Their 82-strong team delivers solutions throughout the project lifecycle, supporting airports, rail networks, energy storage facilities and emerging vertiport operations from offices across the UK. These environments demand accuracy, stability and systems that work first time, every time.

## Preparing for the end of SQL Server with a future-ready approach

Firstco had used bespoke Spark Data systems for fifteen years, including timesheets, procurement and competency management. With SQL Server 2017 approaching end of life, they faced costly licence renewals and monthly virtual server expenses of around £2.5k. Spark Data had long recommended a serverless approach, and with the deadline approaching, Firstco turned to their trusted partner to deliver a robust, future-proof migration without disruption.

*'The projects go very smoothly with Spark. There is no drama, no failed go-lives. Everything just works.'*

*'The latest change was so seamless that nobody noticed anything. It just worked.'*

**Matt Lancashire,**  
**Associate Director**

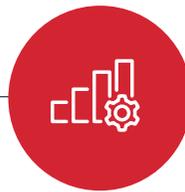
## FirstCo gains from going serverless



The migration went live seamlessly and users noticed no change



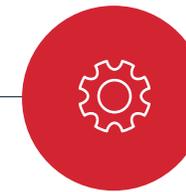
Monthly server costs dropped and costly SQL licences were avoided



The new platform opens the door to smarter automation and reporting



Spark Data's approach gave Firstco total confidence throughout



The systems now run reliably with peace of mind across the business



The project is on track to pay for itself within a year or so

This migration marks the latest milestone in a relationship that began in 2010. Over the years Spark Data's bespoke systems have grown with Firstco's needs, supporting engineering workflows, business processes and internal reporting. The trust built over fifteen years enabled a complex, high-stakes transition to be delivered quietly, smoothly and with complete confidence on both sides.



### About Spark Data

Spark Data designs and supports bespoke Microsoft-based systems that enable organisations to work smarter, reduce complexity and maintain reliable, future-ready infrastructure.

Understand | Create | Deliver



[contact@sparkdata.co.uk](mailto:contact@sparkdata.co.uk)



[www.sparkdata.co.uk](http://www.sparkdata.co.uk)