



OpenText: Consolidation of Information Management at Grupa Azoty

The Polish chemical industry is developing at breakneck speed. For companies operating in this market, it not only means the opportunity for higher revenue but also a growing number of processes, which inevitably increases the volume of documents that such companies have to deal with. Being able to control an avalanche of information would not be possible without the support of IT solutions, and in this regard, OpenText comes to the rescue.

Grupa Azoty S.A. is an important player in the chemical industry, not only in Poland but also internationally. The four biggest chemical plants in Poland – in Tarnów, Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Police and Puławy – all operate under the Grupa Azoty brand. Thanks to consolidation, Grupa Azoty nowadays competes with the biggest chemical companies around the world and is making inroads on foreign markets. It manufactures mineral fertilizers, modern synthetic materials and chemicals – from nitrogen, compound, and phosphate fertilisers through engineering plastics to OXO alcohols, plasticizers and pigments. It sells its products to 70 countries (mainly in the European Union, but also in South America and Asia).

For 86 years, Grupa Azoty S.A. has combined tradition with modernity and an openness to change. The company's

domain is manufacturing, services and trade. The Group has its own logistics infrastructure as well as research, design and repair facilities, which enable it to provide its services. As of the end of 2012, Grupa Azoty employs more than 8600 people.

Managing such a big and complex organisation requires the support of modern IT solutions. In most of Grupa Azoty (Tarnów, Kędzierzyn-Koźle and Police) the IT framework is provided by SAP® ERP, an integrated and centralised management support system, while Hewlett-Packard® Polska is responsible for all services connected with maintaining and developing the Group's IT systems. The key IT project within the Group's IT consolidation initiative is the implementation of Enterprise Content Management (ECM), offered by OpenText, the world's largest supplier of information and content management software.

INDUSTRY

Chemicals

CUSTOMER

Grupa Azoty

PARTNER

HP

CHALLENGES

- Inefficient processes
- High daily volume of information
- Lengthy times required to process documents
- Very large, traditional archives

SOLUTIONS

- OpenText Document Access for SAP Solutions
- OpenText Vendor Invoice Management for SAP Solutions
- OpenText Employee File Management for SAP Solutions

BENEFITS

- Digital instead of paper archiving
- Easier and faster access to all information
- Increased productivity, simplified processes
- Faster invoice processing (10,000 per month)
- Mobile invoice approval at any time and place
- Faster access to employee files
- Lower system administration costs
- Improved ability to meet industry regulations
- Faster decision making



Number of users:

Vendor Invoice Management – approximately 1600 users

Employee File Management – servicing approximately 6300 people employed by Grupa Azoty

“The solutions offered by OpenText, a very strong partner of SAP, integrate well with the SAP platform, which is strategic for Grupa Azoty and important in the context of our outsourcing services”, says Radosław Świerczyński, Account Executive at Hewlett-Packard Polska. “OpenText solutions have proved very successful within groups of companies. Thanks to those solutions, fragmented organisations transform into a single organism. A single system, standardised processes, and the integration of data produced in different ERP systems improve management significantly.

Reasons for the Group going digital

The forerunner in implementing OpenText solutions was the plant in Tarnów-Mościce – the system was up and running in August 2011. Thereafter, OpenText solutions were rolled out to Kędzierzyn-Koźle (March 2012) and Police (March 2013). Each implementation took around 4-5 months.

The reason for implementing these projects was the need to transform IT across the business, not only in finance, but also in HR, production, reporting, and management support. Each project involved the implementation of several IT systems and services in order to offer the best possible support to all areas of the business.

The planned transformation of IT was essential in light of the Group’s business strategy and changing needs as well as expectations as the Group developed. The aim of the transformation was to prepare for the consolidation of the chemical market in Poland in such a way as to facilitate the acquisition of various entities and at the same time standardised their processes, for instance, the management of workflow.

The solutions offered by Hewlett-Packard Polska on behalf of OpenText helped resolve problems and streamline the operations of consolidated companies.

Subsequent stages

The implementation of OpenText systems at Grupa Azoty commenced in 2011. From the outset, the work was conducted by Hewlett-Packard Polska, which launched two solutions at the plant in Tarnów-Mościce that helped reduce the circulation of paper documents. In July 2011, the implementation of OpenText Vendor Invoice Management for SAP Solutions (an application that automates the processing of incoming invoices) and OpenText Document Access for SAP Solutions (ERP document management) was completed.

“The main aim was to streamline workflow and the multi-stage approval of documentation, since these processes are becoming ever more complex in a growing and decentralised corporation. Another reason why we chose OpenText is that it offers an efficient architecture for archiving”, explains Anetta Pilch, Director of Corporate IT.

Thanks to this application it was possible to systematise workflow and accelerate approval processes, while the direct link to SAP financial modules improved accounting procedures. In addition, Grupa Azoty was the first enterprise on the Polish market to implement OpenText Employee File Management for SAP Solutions – a tool that supports the management of employee data. This solution ensures faster access to employee files, lower administration costs, and regulatory compliance. It also helps to reduce the circulation of paper documents, simplifies document approval processes, and ensures faster access to information, in other words, more efficient decision-making.

“The OpenText system is one of the pillars of the IT solutions being implemented at Grupa Azoty in Tarnów. It represents another stage on the road towards eliminating paper documents within the Group. OpenText enables documents to be approved remotely, archived documents to be searched, and also allows supported processes to be analysed and improved on an ongoing basis”, says Anetta Pilch, Director of Corporate IT.

The consolidation of IT systems undertaken by experts from Hewlett-Packard Polska has been expanded to include ECM OpenText content and information management software. The project in Kędzierzyn-Koźle was completed in March 2012. During the first stage, a centralised system for processing purchase invoices was implemented. This was followed by

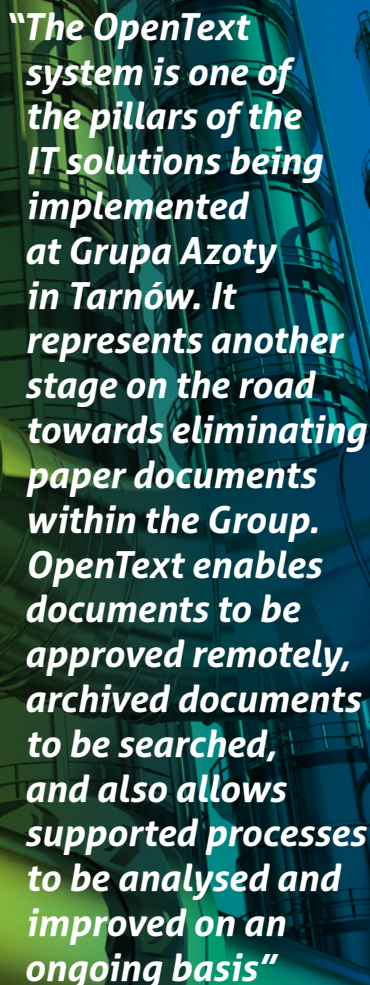
a personnel management system using OpenText Employee File Management for SAP Solutions. These solutions are helping to transform the organisation and standardise business processes.

In 2013, after a thorough analysis of user needs and expectations, this feature-rich software for content and information management was launched at another branch of Grupa Azoty – the Police plant – and in four of the Group's service companies.

Plans for the future

The aim of the project has been to extend the full functionality of the IT solutions used in Tarnów to other companies in the Group. In future, the use of OpenText applications will be even more wide-ranging, which will make it possible to establish a consistent information management system across the entire Group.

The scale of the project is massive, and its effects are already visible. During their first year of operation, OpenText solutions improved the management and circulation of more than 100,000 documents, many of which were contracts containing dozens of pages of annexes.



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ANETTA PILCH, DIRECTOR OF
CORPORATE IT

OpenText Vendor Invoice Management for SAP Solutions, in turn, is a platform used by several modules. In mid-2013, a solution based on VIM was introduced to help manage documentation on equipment and production lines as part of the maintenance and supervision of production.

Talks are under way within Grupa Azoty to identify new areas where OpenText systems could be implemented. Further changes are being planned, such as in the post room, which will involve the registration and sorting of all documents and their assignment to different categories. ■



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