Gulf MP Company Limited powers ahead with OpenText

ECM-based engineering information management facilitates controlled, secure and efficient information exchange between stakeholders during design and construction, eliminating costly project delays

“Before adopting OpenText, we mainly used email to exchange information, but there was no way to track the source and end-point of emails, which resulted in many delayed approvals. OpenText eliminates this ‘middle man’ and helps the organization to save on operational costs. It also enables us to retain full knowledge of any changes, which dramatically improves compliance.”

Ply Samudavanija
Vice President, Information Technology
Gulf MP Co., Ltd.
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According to Thailand’s Power Development Plan for 2015–2036, in the next two decades the country intends to build an additional 20 gas-powered electrical generating stations, capable of producing 17,728 MWe. Gulf MP Company, a joint venture between Gulf Energy Development and Mitsui & Co., is already helping Thailand meet its energy demands. As a major power producer, in the last few years, it has invested in twelve gas fired power plants with a combined generating capacity of 1,563 MW.

Gulf MP faces some tremendous challenges. For example, different phases of projects, ranging from construction to operations, require different deliverables. Customers also differ during different phases of the project.

Once a power station is up and running, Gulf MP’s end customer, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Thailand’s leading state-owned power utility, is responsible for electric power generation and transmission for the whole country. However, during the construction period of a project, other customers, such as sub-contractors working on the project, will require different deliverables.

As a result, Gulf MP must coordinate with multiple stakeholders and clients during the construction of power plants. In addition, because of the nature of these projects, there are multiple sub-components to a single deliverable or document, some of which are confidential, time-sensitive and hierarchical in nature.

The process requires the use of an Owner’s Engineer (OE), an independent engineer involved in technical due diligence. The OE handles documents pertaining to plans and ensures that projects are adhering to agreed upon and statutory specifications. They are usually hired to fill gaps in expertise and resources, but they can also make defining the ownership of different aspects of the project difficult, thus reducing the efficiency of resource utilization.

In the past, the main method of information exchange was via email. But there was no way of tracking the source and end point of emails. This led to numerous delays and wasted time that could be put to far more important uses.

With so much riding on its plans, Gulf MP recognized that it needed a more efficient and effective communication mechanism to share information between its managers and engineers and found what it needed with OpenText.

Gulf Group has been working with OpenText since 2011 to improve its workflow process and document archiving. The software is deployed in three key departments, engineering, project administration and finance, and is fully integrated with core IT systems, such as SAP®, Microsoft® Outlook® and Microsoft® Active Directory®.

From a practical perspective, OpenText Extended ECM for Engineering supports the transmission process both ways—from Gulf MP to the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor and back again—regardless of file size.

OpenText Brava!® allows engineers to easily review and provide feedback on engineering drawings. In fact, one area where OpenText won out over all of its competitors was that Brava allowed engineers and technicians to annotate comments in different layers, and facilitated efficient communication between the different engineering departments.

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In addition, the OpenText solution, implemented by I AM Consulting Group, has been rolled out to the Operation Team, which will handle the electricity plant for the next 20 years. Due to the success of the OpenText solutions within the Engineering department, Gulf MP is also looking to expand its use in other departments within the company.

“Power projects present massive coordination challenges that involve multiple stakeholders and clients. OpenText ensures a secure, accurate and time efficient method of information exchange between multiple stakeholders for different projects during the various phases of construction, eliminating costly project delays,” said Ply Samudavanija, vice president, Information Technology, Gulf MP Co., Ltd.

OpenText eliminates the ‘middle man’ in almost every process, helping Gulf MP save on operational costs. Because documents are now delivered in electronic form, there has been a major reduction in the cost of printing documents. Another benefit of using OpenText is that Gulf MP retains all knowledge of any changes, which enables it to improve its compliance process.

OpenText has also allowed Gulf MP to build its internal capabilities and knowledge base, enabling engineers to run concurrent projects. These skills are now easily transferrable and can be applied to the expansion of the business. Another benefit is being able to run concurrent projects with as few delays as possible. OpenText reduces the requirement for using OEs, thus reducing the time and costs needed to acquire approved plans.

Gulf MP has also seen a significant improvement in collaboration between its business units and external parties, largely driven by better information and knowledge sharing. In fact, the results have been so good that the organization has made OpenText a part of its long-term vision for expanding outreach for corporate solutions and is looking for opportunities to use OpenText in other areas of the business.

About ECM Consulting

ECM Consulting provides a complete ECM application that integrates with SAP Business Suite, uniting the worlds of ECM and ERP. It adds data and document archiving, imaging, document management and application-spanning virtual views of related information to SAP systems. Their consultant team has profound SAP and Enterprise Content Management solutions and project management experience of over 20 years. Their customers have seen rapid improvement of ROI from their IT investment, and business success has resulted from solved business problems. For more information, visit: www.iamconsulting.co.th.