

Basell Document Review Is 50% Faster with 1 Million Documents Instantly Accessible



Basell Polyolefins
Wesseling, Germany
www.basell.com

Industry:
Chemicals

Annual Revenue:
US\$15 billion

Employees:
7,000

Oracle Products & Services:
AutoVue 2D Professional

Key Benefits:

- Provides a single solution that allows 500 employees and external partners to instantly review and print more than 1 million documents
- Saves the cost of purchasing expensive authoring applications for users that simply need to view documents.
- Avoids costly errors by allowing immediate return of approximately 10% of the documents received that are in need of corrections
- Helps collect comments and review documents up to 50% faster

“AutoVue 2D Professional meets our goal of creating an all-digital content management and visualization platform and makes our document management system more efficient and robust.” – Andreas Wylenzek, Responsible for DMS/CAD, Basell Wesseling

The integration of Oracle’s AutoVue 2D Professional with Basell’s document management system is part of a global strategy aimed at moving from a paper-based environment to an all-digital content management and enterprise visualization platform. This provides Basell employees, partners and suppliers with the ability to access information and documents with a single click.

Basell is the world's largest producer of polypropylene and advanced polyolefin products and a leading supplier of polyethylene. These products are used in the creation of household and industrial items, such as plastic fuel tanks, drums, canisters, medical and pharmaceutical packaging, as well as, trash and grocery bags, wire and cable insulation, squeeze bottles, bottle caps and toys.

Basell, together with its joint ventures, has manufacturing facilities in 19 countries around the world, and sells products in more than 120 countries. Headquartered in Hoofddorp, Netherlands, Basell employs 6850 across the globe and has research and development activities in Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. Last year, the group generated €10.5 billion (US\$15 billion) in revenue, its best-ever financial performance.

The Basell Wesseling location near Frankfurt in Germany houses the Technology Business Group, a business unit responsible for licensing Basell’s technology for producing polyethylene and polypropylene products and assisting customers with their plant design projects. Basell’s technology business operates internationally through a unique family of joint ventures and partners. In 2006, Basell reaffirmed its leading global position by signing new agreements for 2.5 million tons of annual capacity. “Basell’s global presence and the predominance of outsourcing in

“Our ambition was to find a single visualization solution for all document formats that could be integrated with our document management system.”

Andreas Wylenzek
Responsible for
DMS/CAD
Basell Wesseling

its activities are major challenges for the company,” said Andreas Wylenzek, Document Management System (DMS)/Computer Aided Design (CAD) Coordinator at Basell Wesseling. Basell estimates that the average ratio of employees versus contractors is usually one to five. “Given the substantial number of projects and activities we handle, and the number of internal and external resources involved, you can imagine the colossal number of documents that are being exchanged on a daily basis” said Wylenzek. This situation compelled Basell to rethink its entire document management process to improve the way thousands of documents and drawings are accessed and shared.

The Challenge: Accessing and Sharing Information

Today, hundreds of licenses of AutoVue 2D Professional are deployed at Basell Wesseling, providing engineers, process control and plant maintenance personnel, with a single solution to instantly view, review and print approximately 1 million documents stored in Basell’s systems.

In addition, AutoVue 2D Professional is intensively used to collaborate with partners and contractors, who can now submit their bids and send their projects for review in any format type. All Basell partners are provided controlled access to both archived and current engineering documentation through Basell’s DMS and AutoVue. The whole project development process is streamlined since partners can quickly find and view the information they need to deliver accurate projects faster. AutoVue is also used by the Archive Centre in Wesseling to verify the quality of the CAD drawings provided by contractors and certify their compliance with Basell’s regulatory and CAD standards.

To complete this all-digital content management, visualization, and collaboration platform, Basell extended AutoVue’s integration one step further by implementing AutoVue’s full text search function to the entire document management system. Thus, it is now possible for Basell employees or partners to search across the Documentum repository for specific documents. “Just like in Google,” explained Wylenzek. “Simply enter key words in the search field, for instance ‘piping and instrumentation in plant A’, and the full text search retrieves all related documents in no time, which can then be viewed in AutoVue 2D Professional.”

Peace of Mind: Maintaining Document Integrity

According to Wylenzek, “We wanted to move away from paper, but we were not ready to make concessions on document integrity, which had to be maintained in all circumstances.” Wylenzek said that conversion was not an option for Basell. In addition to being extremely time-consuming and costly, it is prone to data errors and inaccuracies that can make documents untrustworthy. With native document visualization, documents are opened and viewed in their original formats, and organizations can be confident that sensitive information is never altered.

“We did not want to put our information in jeopardy. Time has proven us right; many neutral formats such as HPGL or CGM are not as popularly used, and with my twenty-five-year experience in engineering, I am convinced that in some cases differences arise during conversions of CAD documents to neutral formats like PDF or PDF/A. This is unacceptable for engineering collaboration and archiving.”

The Results: Direct Cost Savings and Improved Project Quality

Today, the 500 employees from project and maintenance at Basell Wesseling and the network of external partners all have instant access to over one million of documents stored in the DMS repository with the combined use of AutoVue 2D Professional and the DMS. “Our processes are faster and we can interact, exchange documents, and collaborate more easily with one another,” said Andreas Wylenzek. “We have been using AutoVue in our environment for ten years now, and I could not have imagined more satisfying results”.

AutoVue has also saved Basell the cost of purchasing expensive authoring applications for users throughout the organization that simply need to view documents. Today, AutoCAD and MicroStation are used just for design purposes, while AutoVue is used to view and review the documents in several downstream departments. Wylenzek adds that the range of formats supported by AutoVue is extensive. “So far, we have not found any format that AutoVue cannot handle,” he said.

More importantly, AutoVue helps ensure the highest level of quality for projects managed by Basell. Using AutoVue, Basell employees can quickly and easily identify design flaws and errors

in the designs delivered by contractors earlier in the process. Basell estimates that 10% of the documents received are immediately rejected and sent back to the contractors for corrections, avoiding costly errors that would negatively impact a project's budget and delivery schedule.

The Future: Standardized Design Reviews for Facilities Management

Basell wishes to extend the use of AutoVue 2D Professional during its design review process for their facilities maintenance operations. With this purpose in mind, the company has recently begun a pilot project, in which Basell is using AutoVue to standardize on design reviews during the decommission phase of plants. In the chemical industry, plants or plant components are periodically shut down in order to carry out necessary mechanical integrity and capacity increasing. With an average daily cost of half a million euros per shutdown-day, it is essential for Basell to efficiently review and collaborate on all aspects of the shutdown ahead of time, to reduce the plant outage schedule and minimize costs.

Basell is taking advantage of AutoVue's markup and redlining functions to improve collaborative and communication processes during the pre-shutdown phase. The goal is to then expand the usage of AutoVue's markup capability throughout the entire company for improved feedback and communication. "So far, we estimate that with AutoVue, the shutdown team has been able to collect comments and review documents up to 50% faster. This is very encouraging and we look forward to rolling this capability out to our entire organization," Wylenzek concluded.

Why Oracle?

Basell researched other visualization solutions, but none of them met expectations in terms of quality, range of formats supported, and integration with the DMS system. Another issue that no other visualization solution could address was the proper rendering of MicroStation fonts. "This is when I met with Cimmetry at the CeBit Fair in Hanover in March 1996," said Wylenzek. "AutoVue executives were confident they could solve our problem with MicroStation files, and they did!" continued Wylenzek. "At the same time, they also proved that they were able to provide the support we needed. Our decision was made; Oracle's AutoVue 2D Professional would be Basell's enterprise visualization solution."