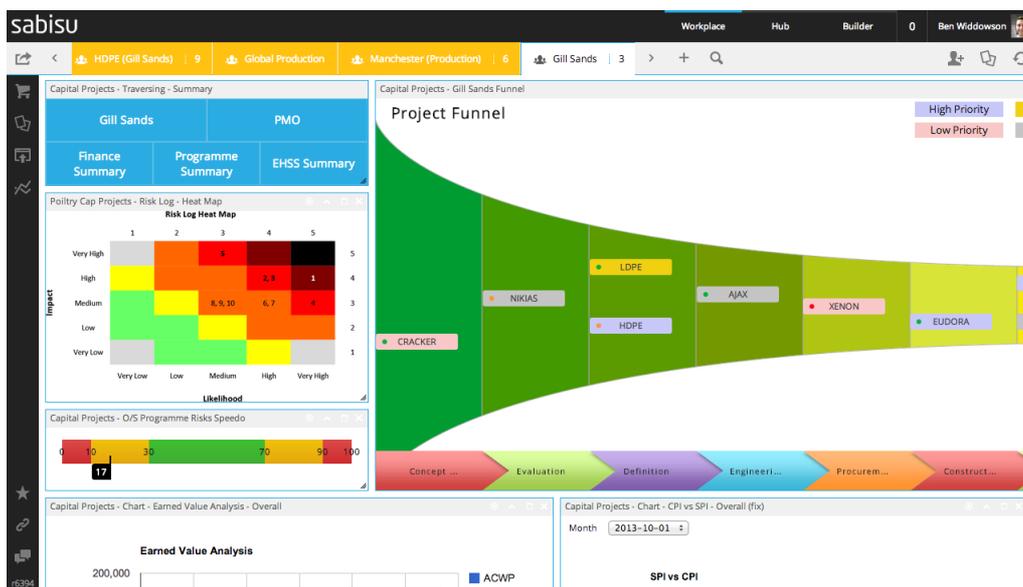# Sabic UK Petrochemicals

Site Plan Initiatives

THE PROBLEM

What challenges in your business influenced you to look for a solution?

Management of our Site Plan Initiatives had been done on paper and spreadsheets for the past couple of years. There was a growing sense that this was just too impractical, effort-intensive and prone to error. We needed a way of empowering our end-users to manage progress on our initiatives without burdening them with complex systems.

Did you have a previous solution that could no longer meet your company's needs? If so, how did your needs change?

Absolutely… as most companies do we started "managing" the information in spreadsheets. Spreadsheets are fine for one person to keep track of things in, but they're useless for collaboration. Site Plan Initiatives needed everyone to be involved, many people updating things at the same time and people easily having access to a quick overview of where each initiative was – without the need to install anything on their PC. Spreadsheets also give us security problems. How do you provide such a wide ability to view and selectively edit things, without giving everyone access to edit everything!? Sabisu overcame that problem for us, and put the security in the hands of the end-users, rather than IT.

Representative dashboard. Does not show customer data.

THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION

What criteria did you have in mind for a solution?

The solution had to be fast, neat and easy to use. We didn't want people going through a difficult process to get at their data, but we needed the data to be structured, consistent and safe.

How did you search for a solution to your problem?

We already had Sabisu, and since we tend to use Agile techniques we took a look at what we could do quickly and easily to get us moving. Technologies that might have seemed obvious (like, for example, Microsoft's Enterprise Project Manager or Primavera) were not only too costly, but also very complex for end-users. Remember: The solution had to work for people from very different backgrounds; sure, some are technical engineers who can figure out how to work a project planning tool, but some just wanted a simple click-box approach to managing their initiative. Out of the box, Sabisu provided components that got us most of the way there… then we just needed a customised web application which – thanks to the services arm of Sabisu – we got quickly.

Tell me about some solutions you considered but rejected.

Enterprise Project and Primavera were too complex (and costly). We could have gone down the SharePoint route, but people think better in pictures, which is what Sabisu gives us. Take, for example, the fact that it took five minutes to produce an S-curve of the initiative data, or the fact that people can now see graphically the "workflow" stages for each initiative. All this visual representation of data makes it so much more accessible to end users than textual lists of projects and documents.

THE SOLUTION

Why did you choose Sabisu over our competitors?

Speed of delivery … and cost … we couldn't afford to delay in getting a solution to the business for site improvements, we needed something that we could rapidly develop, deploy, and easily change. Sabisu hit the nail on the head with its mixture of customisable widget components and the ability to include more complex .NET content.

We chose Sabisu, partially because of its light-weight, friendly, easy-to-get-into nature (so our end-users accept it), and partially because of the richness of functionality in it… it's much easier to develop in than SharePoint, for example.

Did you encounter any challenges implementing our solution, and how did you surmount them?

When we started there were things that Sabisu didn't naturally do. Initially we had to be a bit clever about interfacing the existing "out-of-the-box" components with our custom-built .NET application. However, thanks to the work that the Sabisu team put in on the API, we can now hook our .NET application in really easily to the Sabisu platform. This improvement that we've seen in Sabisu has really unlocked loads of potential for delivering even more content to our end-users in an easy way. (We've just, for example, produced a "project wall" for the Automation team and where we used to have pages of code we've now got two lines!!!)

What did you find most attractive about Sabisu?

The days of the twelve-month IT project are over. Anyone who doesn't recognise this is not going to win. In our rapidly-evolving world, we have to deliver solutions right here, right now. Our competitors are getting fast, and we need to be faster. We need to out-run them, and Sabisu is one of the tools that we have that gives us a competitive advantage when it comes to decision-system delivery.

RESULTS & BENEFITS

What benefits have you experienced from working with Sabisu for site improvement initiatives?

We have one plan, not sixteen different versions of the truth. We have a single place to go for the plan, and it's an easily accessible start point. We have a user-friendly solution, that's safe and secure, and can be easily adapted to changing needs.

What specific results have you seen from implementing Sabisu for site improvement initiatives?

There's a greater feeling from the management team that the data is now "in control". We have a good "quick view" of where our initiatives are, and we also get extra benefits of alerts when things are starting to drift. The whole collaboration piece will take time for people to get used to, but we're seeing some promising signs of people really starting to work in a more modern way.

Does it save you time or money? If so can you quantify?

Time is a definite. Developing, maintaining and fixing spreadsheets takes time – we no longer do it. We've made it easier to visualise the information, and that's key for people to make decisions. By choosing Sabisu over other technologies (including a "build-your-own"), I'd estimate we delivered in half the time it would normally have taken and therefore at half the cost.