

# ELO Customer reference

IBC Solar AG



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## Pure transparency

### ECM with SharePoint, ELO and Microsoft Dynamics NAV

Based on ELO<sup>enterprise</sup> and SharePoint, IBC Solar AG has implemented a comprehensive information and workflow management system. The information is available to staff throughout the company, in all countries. The larger country offices use their own local ELO instances, which are automatically synchronised with the head office. The scope is huge: documents from Microsoft Dynamics NAV, Office, e-mails, scans, photos and other files are grouped by ELO BLP into complete transaction files, and processes are fully automated.

IBC SOLAR AG started up in 1982 as a pioneering solar energy company. Today, this internationally expanding group with its 300 staff is a world leader in solar energy equipment, offering complete solutions for generating electricity from sunlight. In 2008, IBC SOLAR generated consolidated revenues of 800 million euros.

*“Based on ELO<sup>enterprise</sup> and SharePoint, we now have a comprehensive information and workflow management system deployed, with which we can capture and support information processes in a transparent and streamlined way.”*

Marcus Band,  
head of IT Services at IBC SOLAR AG.



# The solution

practical added value



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## Innovation and growth

### Overview

Country: Germany  
Industry: Reusable energy sources / solar power

### The company

IBC SOLAR AG started up in 1982 as a pioneering solar energy company. Today, this internationally expanding group with its 300 staff is a world leader in solar energy equipment, offering complete solutions for generating electricity from sunlight.

### The challenge

Introduction of an ECM system connected to Microsoft SharePoint Server 2007 and Microsoft Dynamics NAV. Connection of worldwide subsidiaries.

### The solution

**ELOenterprise** is seamlessly connected to Microsoft Dynamics NAV and Microsoft SharePoint Server 2007. A company-wide information and workflow management system has been implemented. The international offices are connected via replication and online access. Document management and the company portal, with Internet and Intranet access, are integrated into the solution.

### The benefits

Transparent communication platform, accessible globally and centrally. Lean processes end-to-end. Cost savings in invoice dispatch. Up-to-date information on demand.

## Made-to-measure information management

This successfully expanding company, with its head office in Bad Staffelstein, now has seven international subsidiaries in Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Malaysia and the USA, and an agency in the Czech Republic. In the course of this growth, it was important to place information management for the whole Group on a firm basis and create a transparent communication platform for IBC SOLAR. With this in view, Marcus Band, the head of IT Services at IBC SOLAR, launched the ECM project in October 2007, to raise the Group-wide information management to a new level. The project managers decided to deploy **ELOenterprise** as their ECM solution. "The **ELO** business partner sold us this project in two ways. First, he can offer the right software solutions for our requirements, and secondly, the consultancy team brings the necessary functional and business expertise as well as cross-application IT know-how to the table" Band reports.

## Intranet and document management merged

At IBC SOLAR, the new Enterprise Content Management system was linked to the project to implement a new Group-wide Intranet solution. As a platform, IBC SOLAR uses Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 throughout. Here, the **ELO** SOA architecture and the **ELO4SharePoint** extension modules allow the fully integrated ECM functions to be run using standard web components.



Searching via the tree structure and using search screens, along with complete ad-hoc and rule-based workflow management are available to the 230 or so users directly from the Microsoft Office SharePoint server. "Based on **ELOenterprise** and SharePoint, we now have a comprehensive information and workflow management system deployed, with which we can capture and support information processes in a transparent and streamlined way", says the head of IT Services. The international offices are connected via replication and online access.

## **Fast and convenient integration of different data sources**

The new ECM system acts as the hub for various applications and connects them together in a central platform. End-users can then manage and search for documents and information very easily and intuitively. "For product management, for example, this is a huge advantage, because all the product data sheets and certificates are easily accessible, and always up-to-date", Marcus Band goes on. "That is also true of our website. The documents can be automatically retrieved and updated." Documents from Microsoft Office and scanned information are filed with reference to customers, projects and products. Images from the file system are also included and compressed automatically. Incoming invoices are automatically processed via **ELO** and archived in read-only files. With the aid of the Business Logic Provider (BLP) integration solution, business templates are automatically processed and archives on the basis of flexible rules covering document indexing, user access and structure creation. Marcus Band is especially grateful for this module: "In many cases, we can configure the processing rules for documents ourselves using the graphical designer module."

*"We have completely achieved our goal of a standard platform for the IBC SOLAR Group."*

Marcus Band,  
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## Saving time and costs

### Easy filing of Microsoft Dynamics NAV documents

It is particularly easy to incorporate documents and forms from the Microsoft Dynamics NAV ERP system. The BLP is used for this too: the BLP Output Manager handles the fully-automated processing of printed output from the ERP system. For the solar power specialists, this service-oriented architecture, and the linking of e-mails to business processes, is a major benefit in their day-to-day work.

IBC SOLAR also makes cost savings from the automated dispatch of outgoing invoices by e-mail. The invoices are simply signed, imported into ELO and sent out by e-mail. All of this happens in a continuous process. In the warehouse, the time-consuming processing of paper documents when working with packing lists and handling returns has been greatly simplified. Completed packing lists and external documents are simply scanned and assigned to the right transaction by barcode recognition.

### Supporting and optimising processes and workflows

IBC SOLAR plans to use the new ECM solution even more intensively in the future, and integrate workflows more than ever. Internal processes and procedures can then be significantly optimised and further time and cost savings achieved. The solution will also be deployed for external partners in the near future: a suitable extranet portal will provide business partners with the information they need for their specific joint projects.

### An ECM system with obvious benefits

Today, IBC SOLAR has a comprehensive and legally compliant document management system for its head office in Germany and its international subsidiaries, a system that can continue to grow with the innovative company. "We have completely achieved our goal of a standardised information platform for the IBC SOLAR Group", says Marcus Band of the success of the project. "Now we want to exploit more of the potential of the new solution and make our day-to-day business faster, more efficient and more productive."