

F U S I O N C A S E S T U D Y



*The SWORD Group and
IBM Enterprise Content
Management aids
AMEC Paragon in
meeting Engineering
Document Management
Requirements*





Background

AMEC Paragon - the Americas operational center for AMEC's Oil and Gas division - is an international company, employing over 600 people with operations based in Houston. As a part of the global AMEC Company, AMEC Paragon has access to a network of 20,000 people in some 40 countries around the world and provides engineering, materials management and construction management services to the oil and gas, pipeline, and midstream industries.

The company's areas of expertise include onshore and offshore production facilities, offshore platforms, onshore and offshore pipelines, floating production systems and subsea systems. AMEC Paragon has completed more than 4,000 projects for more than 260 clients in 30 countries world-wide.

Over the past 10 years, AMEC Paragon has managed its engineering documentation through the use of The SWORD Group's Fusion solution. AMEC Paragon has also committed to IBM FileNet P8 as their Enterprise Content Management (ECM) platform.

Challenge

"The challenge we issued The SWORD Group was to continue to provide the engineering applications our engineers demanded—but based on the IBM FileNet P8 platform instead of the standalone Fusion document vault and core document management functions," noted Marc-Henri, Manager of Project IG and Information Systems at AMEC Paragon.

The IBM ECM platform could provide the core capabilities AMEC Paragon needed, but they also required a specialized engineering focus. Customizing the IBM ECM platform to meet these specific requirements would have involved extensive software development, as well as the on-going maintenance and support challenges.

"It is mature, robust, stable and powerful.

FUSION and IBM ECM

are really good complementary technologies."

Marc-Henri Cerar

Manager of Project IT and Information Systems

AMEC Paragon.





“We are in the systems configuration business,” said Cerar. “We did not want to get into software development.”

Equally essential to AMEC Paragon was a user interface (UI) that supported the company’s engineering business processes. The UI needed to be intuitively simple, offer flexibility in how documents could be browsed and configurable to match each user’s role. The UI also needed to support collaboration with AMEC’s partners and suppliers based on Microsoft .NET technology.

There was a time constraint too, engineers in Houston needed to work closely with international counterparts as part of critical upcoming project. The solution had to fit within the project’s tight execution timeframe.

Solution

The strategy to solve AMEC Paragon’s challenge involved replacing The SWORD Group’s proprietary document vault with the readily available document vault and associated functionality from the IBM ECM platform. The result was a suite of engineering applications that could efficiently leverage the IBM ECM application program interfaces (APIs).

The Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 solution also added the valuable document-management capabilities to the IBM ECM platform that the AMEC Paragon engineers and technical users had asked for.

Cerar commented: *“In addition, the Fusion user interface lets users quickly configure new document structures or change existing ones.”*

The engineering applications delivered included:

- CAD Connector for AutoCAD and MicroStation V8 - allows CAD users to access Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 without having to leave their CAD environment. The capabilities provided include: view document, check in/out, save, index drawing, attach references and importing title blocks.
- Collaboration Manager - provides client access, document review and published documents based on Microsoft SharePoint 2007.
- Microsoft Office Integration - provides a Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 user interface with Microsoft Office and Microsoft Outlook.





Additional capabilities delivered include:

- Bulk import and export for data and document exchange
- Document transmittals
- Engineering document search and navigation supports multiple document views, “at a glance” overview capability, as well as many ways to navigate around the IBM FileNet system
- Bulk printing and plotting capability

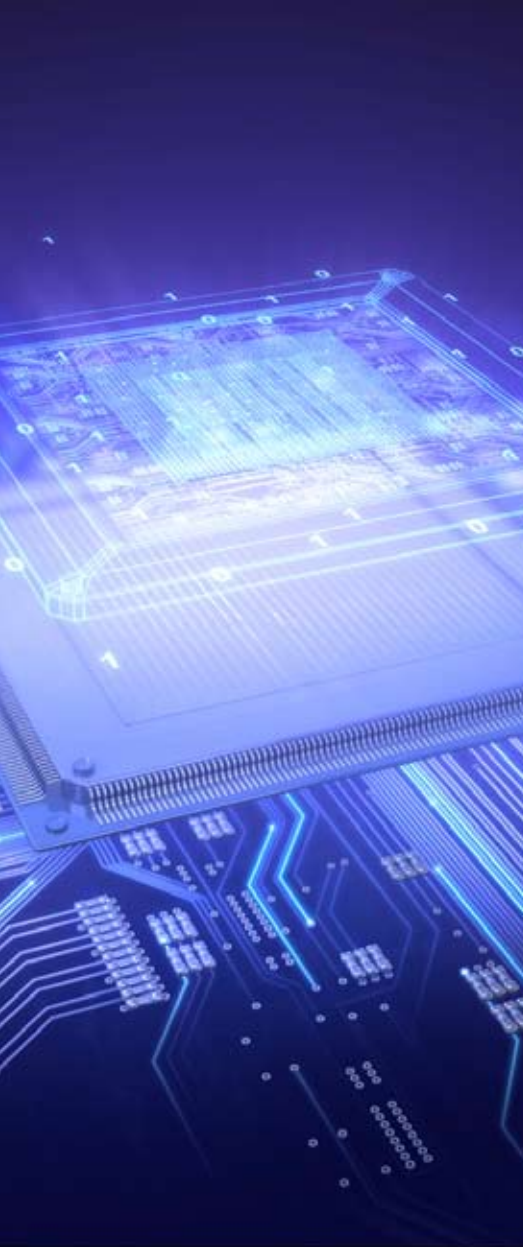
All these applications were provided via a highly customizable UI built on top of the .Net architecture. This allows users to choose how they want to search for information and to tailor their own workspaces depending on their role.

SWORD’s professional services team has also integrated Fusion with AMEC Paragon’s corporate system for project control, progress management and materials management. “Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 adds the valuable document-management capabilities to IBM FileNet 4.0 that our engineers and technical users ask us for,” Cerar said. “In addition, the Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 user interface lets users quickly configure new document structures or change existing ones.”



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Benefits

"Everyone had a lot at stake in this," Cerar said. "There was no 'Plan B,' so we all had to make this work. As a result, this was very much a collaborative joint effort, a far cry from the usual client-contractor kind of thing. SWORD really did deliver for us."

Cerar cited examples of outstanding collaboration:

- To augment AMEC Paragon's staff expertise, The SWORD Group made available its best IBM ECM and Microsoft SharePoint subject-matter experts thus providing the best available resources to ensure the project's success.
- To accommodate AMEC Paragon's inevitable project changes, The SWORD Group approached every modification as a challenge to be met constructively and professionally. "When we pushed, they did not push back," Cerar said.

One of the critical benefits to AMEC Paragon using Fusion for IBM FileNet P8 is that its engineers are now able to continue to follow the existing standard procedures. This would have been impossible without the integration of Fusion to IBM ECM.



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