

ENGlobal Corporation

Customer Profile

ENGlobal (NASDAQ: ENG), a leading provider of energy-related project delivery solutions, has approximately 2,000 employees and provides engineering, automation, land and government services, primarily to companies in the energy sector.

Business Situation

ENGlobal's complex projects generate large quantities of documentation, and make use of data from many sources, including traditional GIS software. The Company sought to manage this information more effectively, and enhance communication with its clients.

Solution

ENGlobal used Visual Fusion to build a Web portal that unites all of its project information in a single, easy-to-navigate online location. The solution helps with planning, engineering, construction, and client collaboration. Visual Fusion effectively organizes the data so that the status of each project is clear at a glance.

OVERVIEW

Engineering and technology professional services firm uses Visual Fusion software to integrate GIS and project management data, creating a project portal and a new product.

Summary

ENGlobal Corporation provides technical and project management services primarily to companies in the energy sector. For each of its projects, the company draws on many different data sources to generate vast quantities of documentation.

To better manage this information, ENGlobal developed a solution with Visual Fusion that goes beyond traditional GIS and portal capabilities. It connects their existing GIS data with other data sources and visualizes project information in an interactive Web portal. The Visual Fusion solution significantly improved communication, both within ENGlobal and its clients, and has evolved into improved business processes.

Situation

ENGlobal is a project delivery solutions firm of about 2,000 employees, serving the energy, utilities, transportation, telecommunications, manufacturing, and government sectors. Operating in the U.S. and internationally, ENGlobal has unique capabilities, including engineering and design services, project management, inspection, and land right-of-way acquisition and regulatory compliance.

Some of the projects that ENGlobal undertakes for its clients are complex and generate large quantities of technical support documentation. Building a pipeline or electrical transmission line hundreds of miles long, for example, requires that ENGlobal document hundreds of land acquisitions and right-of-way agreements. Project design, budgeting, and scheduling can be equally complicated, and require ongoing coordination among ENGlobal, its clients, contractors, and regulatory agencies.

"In the past, we would end up with 10 to 15 filing cabinets full of project documents," said Sam Burns, a software developer for ENGlobal. "The only way to manage was to track projects by color-coded spreadsheets."

ENGlobal manages its projects with a variety of tools, including traditional GIS software, but the Company was looking for a more complete solution — one that would combine mapping with other functions and make the results available to specialists and clients alike.

Solution

ENGlobal used Visual Fusion software from IDV Solutions to build a solution that consolidates project planning and tracking, document management, reporting, and client collaboration. Its new multi-faceted Web portal has changed the way ENGlobal communicates internally and externally with clients.

The new application automatically combines information that ENGlobal previously extracted from many separate sources. To this end, ENGlobal implemented Microsoft's SharePoint content management software. Visual Fusion features extensive SharePoint integration whereby users upload items to Visual Fusion-enabled SharePoint lists in order to associate each item with a physical location. Visual Fusion then geocodes the items, supplying latitude and longitude coordinates for each.

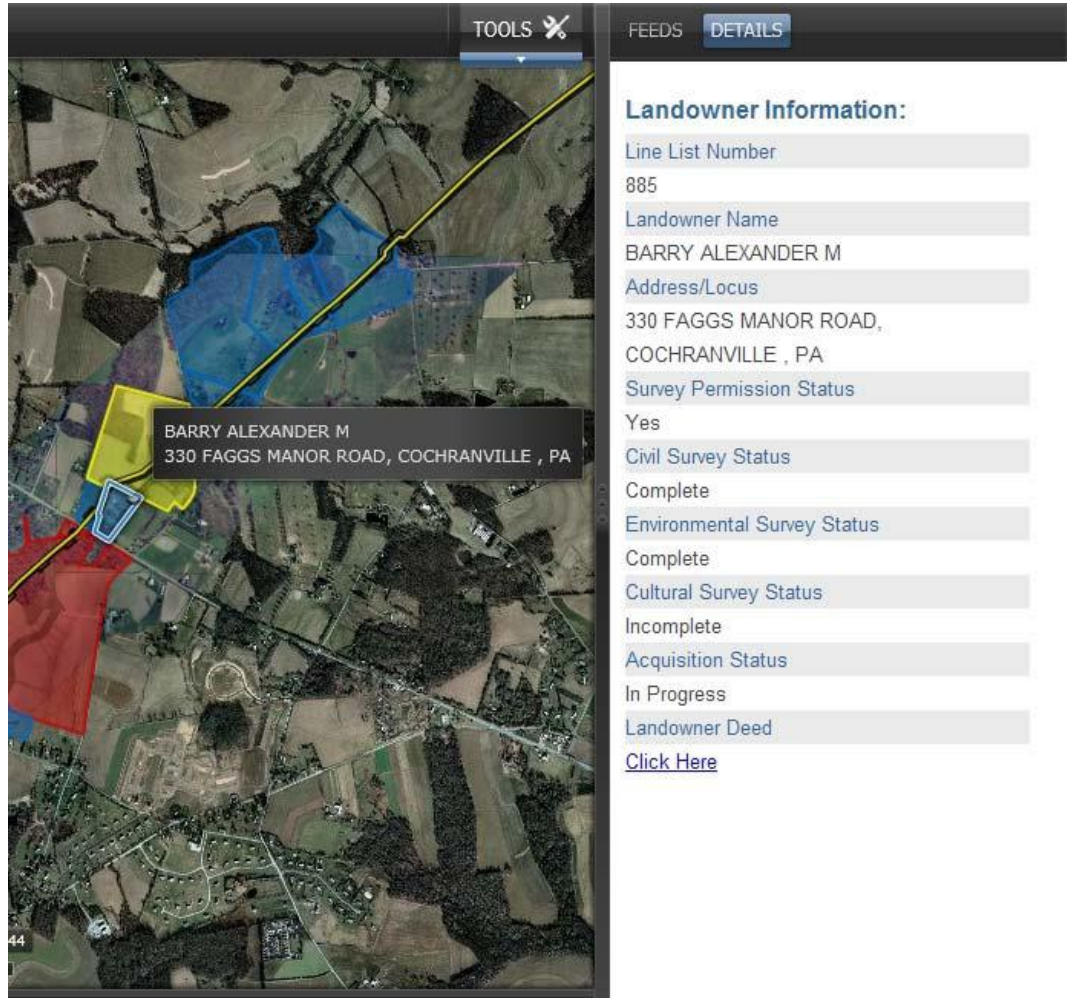


Visual Fusion visualizes the status of construction, land acquisition, and other project components on an interactive map so that users can instantly see how the project is progressing.

"Visual Fusion provides us with a better, more efficient way to deliver integration, context, and relevance to our clients that aren't available in traditional GIS and information management solutions. We believe that it has given ENGlobal a unique competitive advantage."

Hal S. Ozanne,
ENGlobal's
Vice President
of Denver Engineering.

With Visual Fusion and SharePoint, ENGlobal can bring together data of many types, including engineering drawings, contracts, aerial photos, MS Word documents, and Shapefiles. Public Web feeds are added by entering their URLs into a Visual Fusion SharePoint list. Other data, including property and landowner records, are integrated through Visual Fusion's SQL and ArcSDE Connectors.



ENGlobal uses Visual Fusion's connectors to integrate property and landowner records into the solution.

To help users extract meaning quickly from this mass of information, Visual Fusion visualizes the status of construction, land acquisition, and other project components on an interactive map. Using thematic shading and conditional formatting, Visual Fusion renders the status of these items visually, so that users instantly can see how a project is progressing.

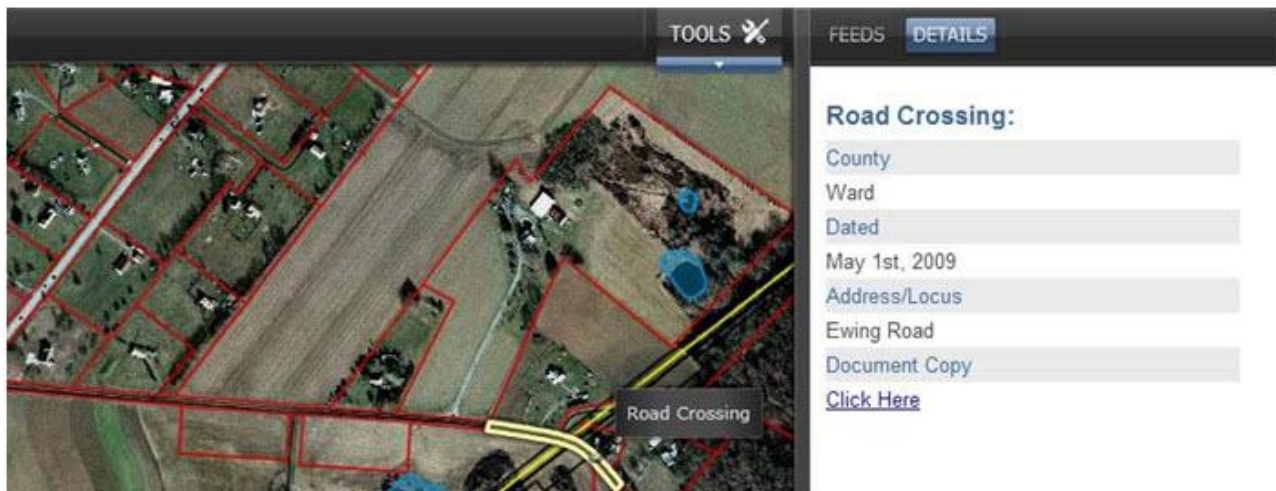
All of this data is seamlessly made available to ENGlobal's project managers, engineers, and others through a Web portal. With the project portal online, users – even clients – can log on from anywhere at anytime. Visual Fusion can apply both SharePoint permissions and Active Directory group security, so that each user sees only the data he or she is authorized to access. The interface allows real-time interaction, so users can filter the data and drill down to retrieve specific reports and other relevant documents.

The application complements ENGlobal's investment in traditional GIS services and data.

"GIS files give us a map and flat tables, which allows you to drill down, but the interface is very bland and less informative," said Burns. "Visual Fusion adds integration and interactivity. We use ESRI data as a starting point and use Visual Fusion to show where we are in the project."

ENGlobal has found the application so successful that the company has begun selling the solution to others under the name ENGlobal VU®.

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Visual Fusion unites ESRI Shapefiles and other GIS data with other content to amplify its value.

Benefits

- **Project status and progress are instantly visible.** Visual Fusion's formatting and visualizing capabilities allow users to see at a glance how the project is progressing, making it easy to comprehend and communicate.
- **Data is available in real time, from any location.** The web-based solution delivers services to customers more quickly – the moment the data is updated, it is viewable by all stakeholders.
- **Data of all types is available in one central location.** Using SharePoint and data connectors, ENGlobal can add virtually any type of data to its Visual Fusion application, and all of it is available through a single interface.
- **ENGlobal gains more value from its GIS investment.** Visual Fusion makes ESRI Shapefiles and other GIS data accessible to non-specialists, and visually combines it with other content to amplify its value.

- **Multiple users can contribute; no special technical expertise needed.** Users can contribute content by uploading documents, entering information into online forms, or adding Web URLs to SharePoint.
- **Project tracking and reporting are more accessible and efficient.** Visual Fusion's SharePoint integration lets ENGlobal leverage features like alerts, forms, search, reporting, and MS Excel services. Everything a project manager needs is readily accessible.
- **ENGlobal enjoys more productive interaction with clients.** The online portal with its user-friendly interface makes it easy to share information with clients and other stakeholders. It allows clients to contribute web feed URLs and documents.

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