



De Smet S.A. Engineers & Contractors, Belgium

Key Facts

Company: De Smet S.A. Engineers & Contractors

Website: www.dsengineers.com

Description: De Smet Engineers & Contractors (DSEC) has an established reputation as agro industrial integrator, specializing in the agro-industrial fields such as sugar, edible oil, biofuels and biochemicals. It is a world-class provider of Engineering, Procurement and Construction services under a single point responsibility.

Industry: Energy

Country: Belgium

Products Used:

- Intergraph Smart® 3D
- Intergraph Smart P&ID

De Smet Relies on Hexagon Solutions in Alternative Fuel Quest

With the growing demand for alternative fuels, De Smet S.A. Engineers & Contractors (DSEC) must complete user-ready projects in a limited amount of time and with a pre-defined budget. The Belgium-based engineering company selected Hexagon's family of products to meet this challenge.

The Challenge

DSEC works on global turnkey projects involving the alternative fuel industry. With 150 employees, Belgium-based DSEC holds a project portfolio of about US\$600 million.

The engineering company serves two primary markets: the sugar and bioethanol industry and the edible oil and biodiesel industry. For the sugar and bioethanol industry, DSEC performs its own process detail engineering.

With the growing demand for alternative fuels, DSEC faces the challenge of completing turnkey projects in a limited amount of time and with a pre-defined budget. That requires flexibility and precise planning.

Objective

DSEC selected Hexagon's family of products to meet these challenges.

In an effort to reduce erection costs and construction time, DSEC has its piping work pre-assembled, sometimes completed at great distance from the actual plant site, which creates another set of challenges.

"We felt that with Hexagon, we could benefit from efficient and responsive technical support for software implementation," said Bernard Nokerman, project manager for DSEC. "We were also very interested in the integration of Intergraph Smart® 3D with Intergraph Smart P&ID."

DSEC selected several products from Hexagon for their project needs, including:

- Intergraph Smart 3D
- Intergraph Smart P&ID
- Basic Integrator
- Intergraph Smart Review
- SmartPlant® Explorer

The company's primary objective was to improve productivity using software that was easy to use and that could easily import data from subcontractors. DSEC also wanted reliable software that would be supported in the future. The ability to share the software outside DSEC's main office was also important.

DSEC implemented Smart P&ID to use for schematics. That was followed by the implementation of Smart 3D to improve productivity and offer the ability to integrate with third-party products.

Smart P&ID is knowledge-driven engineering software for creating intelligent piping and instrumentation diagrams (P&IDs). Smart 3D is a complementary, full-suite solution that provides all the capabilities needed to design a plant and keep it as-built throughout its lifecycle.

Using Hexagon Solutions, DSEC manages several projects in production including about 650 pieces of equipment and 3,500 pipelines distributed among 15 main process buildings. All implemented licenses are used on a daily basis and distributed concurrently.

Nokerman said the main reasons for choosing Hexagon solutions were:

- The ability to seamlessly integrate data between Smart P&ID and Smart 3D
- Importing and exporting documents in common formats (SAT, DWG, XLS)
- Quality of technical support
- Ease of training

But he is confident that the company will meet its objectives in terms of productivity improvements.

"In the future, we expect faster startup on projects based on currently developed backgrounds, including equipment models, specifications and working procedures," Nokerman said.

Intergraph France was closely involved in the start-up process, including training and piping specification creation. No data migration was required since DSEC started on a clean slate. Internal knowledge was used for data development, with only a few subcontractors' models directly imported.

The time it took to begin initial production with Hexagon software was very brief. DSEC wanted to get started with projects quickly, so the software was used out-of-the-box without any customization.

"Employee training was completed in a matter of days instead of weeks," said Nokerman. "The Hexagon team showed superior knowledge, and their quick response time always surpassed our expectations," he said.

DSEC plans to evaluate Smart Instrumentation for future usage. Depending on its workload, the company may also expand the number of users.

"We expect to use Hexagon's worksharing capabilities where needed," said Nokerman. "The next step for us will be to improve and set up the collaboration process between our civil works and structural departments and related external engineering subcontractors with a relay to the workshops."

With DSEC expecting to meet its objectives using Hexagon solutions, Nokerman said that companies in similar situations should consider working with Intergraph to solve their own production problems.

"Independent of software implementation and user training," said Nokerman, "it is very valuable to invest in a well thoughtout setup of working procedures in collaboration with Hexagon experts."

About Hexagon

Hexagon is a global leader in sensor, software and autonomous solutions. We are putting data to work to boost efficiency, productivity, and quality across industrial, manufacturing, infrastructure, safety, and mobility applications.

Hexagon's PPM division empowers its clients to transform unstructured information into a smart digital asset to visualize, build and manage structures and facilities of all complexities, ensuring safe and efficient operation throughout the entire lifecycle.

Hexagon (Nasdaq Stockholm: HEXA B) has approximately 20,000 employees in 50 countries and net sales of approximately 3.9bn EUR. Learn more at [hexagon.com](https://www.hexagon.com) and follow us @HexagonAB.