

Virtual Office Designs and Builds New Hydroelectric Power Plant

ProjectWise creates enterprise-level collaboration environment to connect people and information

Engevix is a leading Brazilian EPC that provides services for engineering studies, project management, procurement, and construction. Founded in 1965, Engevix is headquartered in Brazil and operates internationally, delivers public and private sector infrastructure across a spectrum of industries. With more than 2,000 employees, the firm operates internationally from seven offices in its home country and additional offices in Mexico, Peru, and Angola.

Charged with quickly delivering the 65-megawatt Caçu Hydroelectric Power Plant facility in the midwestern region of Brazil, Engevix needed to deploy an accomplished project team that already had a proven and successful track record. Finding experienced staff for a large engineering project is a human resource challenge for any EPC, and limiting the search to a single geographic location makes it almost impossible.

To succeed on the hydroelectric plant project, the Engevix team knew that it needed to increase its ability to virtually assemble an experienced project team from many offices while maintaining the same levels of collaboration achieved by on-site teams. Engevix management set about creating a virtual project team, although it knew that doing so would carry some risk. For example, Engevix knew that its existing paper-based workflows would need to be replaced, and any process-change would need to be well crafted to mitigate risk while maintaining quality and productivity.

Engevix created its virtual team by deploying ProjectWise to connect 120 design and engineering professionals from six offices for real-time project collaboration. The design and project management teams were headquartered in Brasília and Florianópolis; the owner's engineering staff was located in Curitiba; the equipment suppliers were located in São José dos Campos; client contacts were located in Porto Alegre; and all on-site workers were located in Caçu. Engevix connected multiple offices and enabled efficient and secure work

sharing while establishing new electronic workflows with first-rate change management processes.

By connecting its virtual project team across offices, the firm enabled designers who were thousands of miles apart to collaborate as though they were in the same office. Project executives were able to put the best people on the job without relocating them. The process of recruiting skilled labor was streamlined, as many geographic obstacles were overcome and the company reduced recruitment costs by 20 percent.

Using ProjectWise, the EPC painlessly adopted new electronic workflows for the power plant project and immediately realized productivity gains through improved collaboration processes among distributed teams, fast file access and verification, and accelerated design and delivery of up to 40 percent.

With ProjectWise, Engevix managers could report easily on project status and progress, and the team soon found they were able to respond faster to queries from clients and reviewers. The design team members never wasted time searching through outdated or irrelevant files to find the right information because ProjectWise always provided access to the most current information. "With ProjectWise, the company increased collaboration and promoted effective participation of all team members to produce a project of the best

quality," noted Ciro Julio Schmitt, CIO at Engevix.

For the Engevix project team, getting a fast start was crucial to gaining a return on investment. Developing the right skills was critical and training the team was necessary to equip them with the right skills. "Training from the Bentley Institute was so important to both the immediate and long-term success of the project. Bentley Institute provided the learning materials that gave our design team a strong foundation for the project," said Schmitt. "Now that we have the skills, we will never start another project without ProjectWise. With it we can deliver better projects in less time." □


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