

The ELITHIS Group has chosen PLANCAL's NOVA

CAD solution - mission accomplished!
An innovative, practical partner for original development strategies.



The ELITHIS Tower, one of the most environmentally sound buildings in the world, is the Dijon headquarters of the ELITHIS Group. A symbol of sustainable development, it is also the concrete expression of the pioneering spirit of the group, which specialises in positive energy engineering, with its hard hitting slogan: "More grey matter, less grey energy."

The company was established some 35 years ago in Charnay les Mâcon, Saone-et-Loire, France. At that time it was called CERTEC and was an engineering and fluids design office for building projects. Thierry Bièvre, the current General Director of the ELITHIS Group, went into partnership with the two founders. He brought a new dynamic to the company with his innovative vision of the profession: sustainable development, the environment, corporate citizenship, commitment and keeping one's word. In 2003, CERTEC became ELITHIS and underwent rapid development.

« "With the NOVA solution, we didn't just achieve a 10% productivity gain; it goes much further than that. We also have to take performance and the quality of the graphics rendering into account." Christian Rozier, Operations Manager ELITHIS ENGINEER.

ELITHIS, an original development strategy
Thierry Bièvre established the ELITHIS Group in Dijon at the beginning of 2010. The Engineering and Design Department has acquired new skills and becomes involved in projects at the earliest opportunity. The Group's development strategy is based on study, design, monitoring, innovation and R&D. "There are 50 engineers and technicians working in design at the Dijon site. There is no other equivalent centre in France," explained Christian

Rozier, Operations Manager of ELITHIS ENGINEER - ING for technical fluids engineering. He explains the mistakes of the profession, which "are to minimise the number of study hours, whereas more time spent on study would improve the outcome. To succeed, you need tools, resources and the thought processes to go with them."

Choosing PLANCAL 's NOVA solution
Out of all the IT tools available in mid-2008 ELITHIS ENGINEERING chose PLANCAL's NOVA solution as its CAD and technical building calculations software.

Highly specialised and well known in this field for over 30 years, PLANCAL supplies both very small enterprises and large engineering companies.

A user of AUTOCAD until then, ELITHIS ENGINEERING's objective was to find a tool for performing calculations and design with outstanding

graphics rendering giving a productivity gain to the order of 10%. A specification was prepared and a comparative study was initiated by Christian Rozier and Frédéric Gibello, Head of Research, into four products on the market, including AUTODESK's AUTOCAD MEP, FISA MEP and PLANCAL's NOVA. Among the criteria in the specification were the need for better graphics rendering, better ergonomics to produce the 3D view ; from 2D drawings, which is very attractive for the customer as

« "We needed to work with a software publisher that is always ready to listen to professionals and our problems. The IT project was highly successful. The transfer from AUTOCAD to NOVA did not create any problems for our customers." Christian Rozier

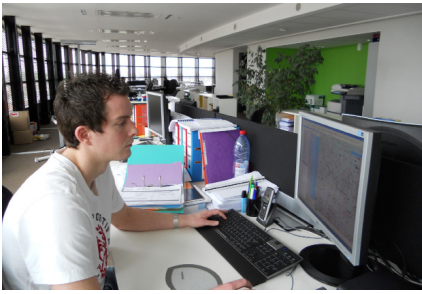
Christian Rozier added.

PLANCAL's NOVA software quickly made a difference. It has been gradually rolled out and, as a result of PLANCAL's involvement, it took only six months

to implement across all the users, who quickly noted a substantial saving in time and now no longer wish to return to the old system.



Caspar Steiner, Gérant de Plancal and Christian Rozier, Operations Manager of Elithis Engineering in front of the Elithis Tower.



Nicolas Thyot, Fluids Technician and Christian Rozier stated, "It would never have been so successful without PLANCAL's close collaboration. It was essential for the software publisher to play its part and to respond to any problems. Since then, we have been working together as a real partnership. With the benefit of hindsight, I can say that the IT project went really well. The transfer from AUTOCAD to NOVA did not create any problems for our customers. I've been able to sleep well and that's a key factor!", he joked.

With the NOVA solution, mission accomplished! There are now 27 licences in use at all times by technicians for environmental and electrical engineering. In addition, there are 15 licences for business managers spread all over the country, used for the receipt of documents, proofreading and presentation of projects.

Nicolas Thyot, a user of NO VA software for environmental engineering and plumbing studies, outlined the main advantages of the solution. He mentioned managing references with a typical project-based tree structure for summarising and substantial savings in time by using the library to insert objects, plus 2D rendering. "The time saved in producing the plans is put to better use in design," he said. Nicolas Thyot appreciates the flexibility for making the changes that regularly occur when making plans, sometimes on a weekly basis. He also mentions a substantial saving in time and the ease with which sections can be created, enabling any potential implementation problems to be anticipated.

Other key points: the ability to generate BOMs. By using NOVA, ELITHIS ENGINEERING gains an average of one working day per project on this operation. In addition, integrating the calculations of the various networks ensures that moving from plan to outcome is quicker and more consistent.

Christian Rozier noted that they have achieved more successful results in much less time and that the tool enables them to do things that they were unable to do before. "We

« *"The time saved in producing the plans is put to better use in design."*
Nicolas Thyot, a user, also mentioned a substantial saving in time and the ease with which sections can be created.

didn't just achieve a 10% productivity gain; it goes much further than that. We also have to take into account the quality of the service and the rendering," he added.

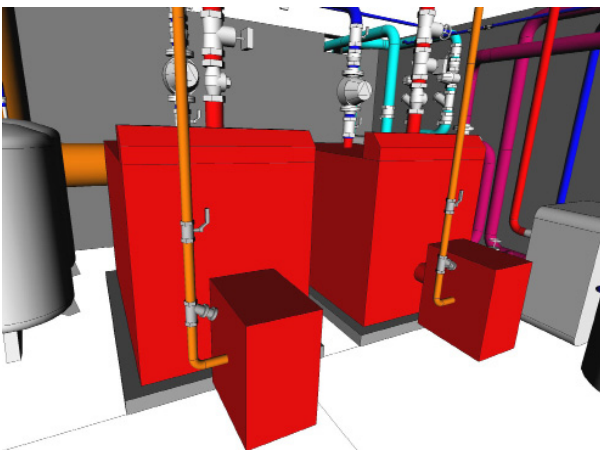
An internal organisation has been set up to make it easy for new users of the NO VA solution to be added and also to comply with "the way ELITHIS uses" the software.

The users are heavily involved in the development of NOVA. They make their development requests known and test versions before release.

What about the future?

The ELITHIS Group intends to go much further with its development. With international requests coming from China, Qatar and other countries, increased exports are envisaged. Turnover was 6 million in 2009, with a target of 10 million for 2010. There were 80 members of staff in 2010 and about 400 are planned for 2015. Truly impressive growth statistics!

ELITHIS ENGINEERING is relying on the collaboration of its partner PLANCAL for this development. New collaborative communication tools for remote working will be required and are already being considered. To be continued...



A virtual project and the production of the boiler room of the "Quartier Colbert" project in Nevers.