CASE STUDY

Knovel®

Bechtel

Precise search and up-to-date technical insights

SUMMARY
For Perry Munsinger, Turnover Engineer at Bechtel, Knovel supports greater efficiency in finding and maintaining technical knowledge to support optimal design and development.
Since its founding in 1898, Bechtel has been involved in more than 22,000 of the world’s most challenging projects, including the Hoover Dam, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, the Channel Tunnel and Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System - the world’s largest solar thermal facility of its kind. It’s Bechtel’s level of commitment to quality that has helped to keep the company at the top of the Engineering News-Record (ENR) top U.S. contractor’s list for 12 straight years.

Before joining Bechtel, Perry Munsinger had already worked on two continents in the roles of civil and mechanical engineer, site manager and piping superintendent. The veteran project manager’s focus is on Bechtel’s liquid natural gas project on the west coast of Africa. A Turnover Engineer with over 30 years of experience in construction and project/quality management, Munsinger knows first-hand how important reliable technical information is in addressing issues such as facility start-up, project cost estimation, scheduling and planning, and finding the most up-to-date code requirements. It’s his job to coordinate with field engineers, supervisors and clients to ensure that each phase of the project is on schedule and properly documented before signoff.

Throughout his career, Munsinger has dashed off to facilities around the globe, packing stacks of personal notebooks and handbooks filled with the basic information needed to get his job done. Munsinger estimates that he’s spent thousands of dollars in shipping costs out of his own pocket just to have access to the data that is so vital to his work.

At least he used to. Now he uses Knovel, and he’s not looking back.

For years, Bechtel has provided all of its divisions around the world with access to Knovel to ensure that engineers have online access to up-to-date data that supports their projects. One of over 6,200 engineers, Munsinger is charged with doing the job right the first time.

Since joining Bechtel, Munsinger’s need for information hasn’t changed, but the way he accesses it definitely has. Knovel, an online application that provides access to trusted databases, equations and handbooks, allows him to find answers from... anywhere on the planet.

What’s Munsinger’s favorite Knovel feature?

“The search function, definitely – especially the accuracy and quickness of it. Most issues require an answer quickly,” the engineer says. “So, to be of business value, the data must be searched with little margin of error.” Knovel’s reliability and high speed search results ensure that Munsinger (and Bechtel) gets what he needs, when he needs it.

Thanks to the broad spectrum of engineering disciplines supported by Knovel, neither Munsinger nor the other Bechtel employees using Knovel on a daily basis have to worry they won’t find what they need. Even if the focus of their work changes.
“Every time I have used Knovel to look for an answer, checked for industry or tribal knowledge to understand or enhance code requirements, or just needed an insight on a subject, Knovel has met the need, saved time by staying on the right track (less re-work), and done so quickly and accurately. In most cases, Knovel possesses “standards” of the industry so the data and information can be trusted when taken in context. Lots of information exists on the Internet but not all of it can be trusted, and reproducible results are mandatory when safety, quality and production are concerned.”

—PERRY MUNSINGER
Bechtel

Perry Munsinger cites the “breadth and depth of information” in Knovel’s online resources as one of the keys to his success. And because the information “can be searched quickly,” the engineer’s work is not only more efficient, it’s also less costly.

To date, Bechtel has over 2,600 Knovel users, which means Munsinger’s not alone in using a tool that helps to improve the quality and of timeliness of projects — and ultimately, client satisfaction.

**Knovel is a resource for every step of the process**

Consider the demands on Munsinger as he moves through the different stages of his role as turnover engineer in Angola. He can use Knovel to review data about loss prevention, safe work practices, design safety, state of the art technology, construction codes, compliance issues and environmental regulations. And rather than having to wade through vast volumes of content looking for the data he needs, Knovel takes him “right to the point!”

Online access offers a stark contrast to the way the engineer described the search process before Knovel: “long and tedious, and with poor results.” The hardcopy references he transported across thousands of miles not only required him to set aside numerous hours to pore through them by hand, they frequently didn’t have the desired information. And when they did, the data was often outdated. Now, when the engineer sees a colleague struggling with a problem or traveling to the corporate offices, “just like I used to do,” he tells them about Knovel.