

CASE STUDY

Scopus<sup>®</sup>

Helping an Engineering Company Realize its Potential



**IMPROVING RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY**

Research engineers from a world-leading supplier of functional materials describe how they use Scopus to save time and gain competitive advantage in developing advanced functional materials.

**“Scopus gives us a confidence level that we don’t get elsewhere because we know we aren’t missing anything. It gives us the complete outcome.”**

– Research engineer, glass and ceramics group

At this engineering company, Scopus made it possible to complete the investigation stage of research within 40% less time and helped lower development time by 20%.

#### **World-class engineering**

The average person looks through windows or fills a glass from the water faucet with little regard to the technology that makes this possible. Fortunately, the research engineers at companies that produce such materials take a different view, contributing to modern life in ways that may easily be overlooked.

One such engineering company specializes in the design, production and distribution of functional materials for the automotive and construction industries. Their engineers transform raw matter into the advanced products that are in daily use worldwide, applying world-leading expertise in business sectors such as flat glass, high-performance materials (HPM) and construction products.

#### **Partnering for faster investigation and development**

Developing attractive new products, improving existing products to satisfying evolving customer expectations and upgrading manufacturing processes top the list of the company’s challenges. Added to these are the environmental and safety considerations, and regulatory compliance commonly associated with the industry.

Elsevier supports this company’s information retrieval and management needs to improve productivity. The engineers in several divisions, including the glass and ceramics group, use Scopus to enable innovation in a fraction of previous time experienced. Scopus made it possible to complete the investigation stage of research within **40% less time** and helped **lower development time by 20%**.

“Scopus gives us a confidence level that we don’t get elsewhere because we know we aren’t missing anything. It gives us the complete outcome,” states one of the research engineers involved in glass R&D.

#### **Real-world timesaving in basic research**

“Without Scopus, it would be impossible to start projects. The richness of the data allows me to find information that would have taken substantially more time to find or that I couldn’t have even found otherwise. I’m very satisfied with Scopus.”

This engineer’s tasks include researching the potential of new applications and planning their development, keeping up to date on new progress and finding collaborative partners—for all of which he uses Scopus to efficiently gain insight.

Working on new applications, he looks to Scopus to do an initial broad search: “...exploring and establishing the state-of-the-art by looking at references and following citations to see how a piece of research has been applied most recently, both within my core area and outside it.” He then employs Advanced Searching to pinpoint the information to best define objectives and determine exactly what needs to be done to validate concepts, initiate new projects and formulate plans.

“Receiving 10–20 alerts per week with extremely current citations keeps me reliably informed about what’s going on in my field of interest,” he continues with respect to Scopus’ focussed alerting on new progress. He finds that looking for universities doing research on the same topics or applications helps identify and build a collaborative network.

### **Competitive advantage in applied research**

Another research engineer, who works in the company's applied research group, says, "If I use Scopus, I know I have all the information that's relevant to help me solve the problems at hand and that it's the most up-to-date. It helps us stay ahead of our competitors."

He is also tasked with research in on glass and ceramics, but his more applied field of research includes investigating how to build prototypes and resolving technical problems in the production of these prototypes and final products.

"With prototypes, I use Scopus to familiarize myself with a new area of investigation so that I can identify the most significant research and breakthroughs in the field by employing a broad initial search. To resolve technical problems, a second targeted search helps with saving valuable time by seeing how others have approached solving similar problems.

"Ongoing monitoring that begins with the Citation Tracker and locating publications outside of engineering, enable me to suggest possible routes for new product development. Setting up alerts in Scopus guarantees that I'll get the latest information from thousands of journals as soon as they're available."

### **Scopus: the integral partner**

These real-world advantages attributed to Scopus by the two engineers highlight the degree Scopus has become integrated in their work at this world leader in materials engineering. Communicative collaboration will further optimize the productive partnership with Elsevier.

### **Preference for Scopus over other sources**

These two engineers have such positive experiences with Scopus, highlighting the success of its integration at the company, but why do they and their colleagues prefer Scopus to other sources? Some of the explanations were:

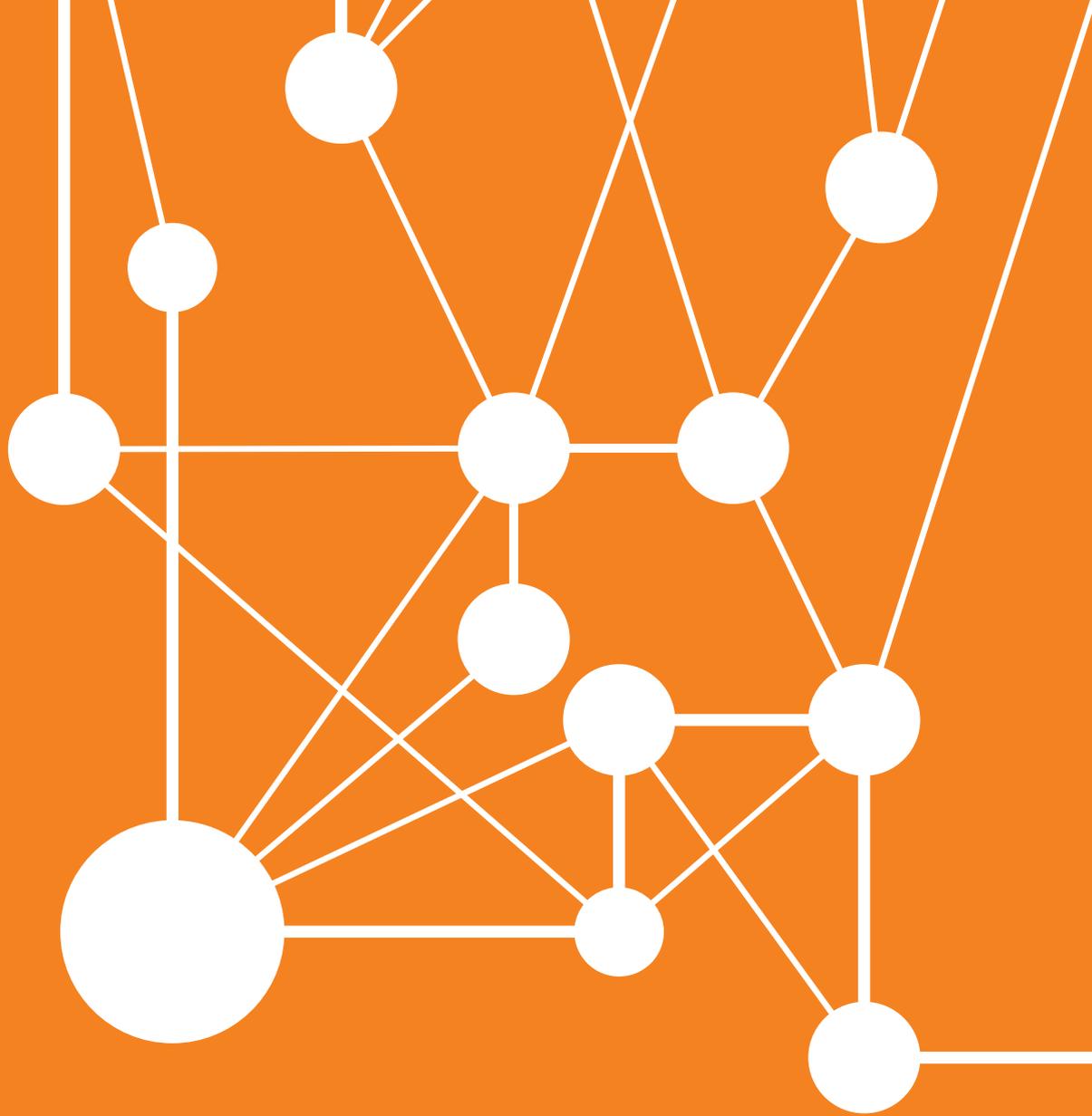
**Comprehensive coverage:** "We can rely on Scopus because there's no risk of missing anything and the quality of the data is extremely high."

**Sophisticated searches:** "I use the Advanced Search with logical operators in order to obtain the maximum number of pertinent bibliographic records and minimum of noise."

**Logical interface:** "I take advantage of most of Scopus' features. This wasn't the case with the other solution I used.."

**Integration:** "Compared to other sources, it's a lot easier to work with the Scopus data and 'play' with the citations to find just what you need and then save and export data."

**Personalized alerts:** "Without Scopus, I would have to set up individual journal alerts and even then I wouldn't be sure that I had all the relevant information. And now, I can get from Alerts directly to the abstract with just one click."



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