SUMMARY
Albemarle Corporation develops, manufactures, and markets complex chemicals and services in applications including electronics, plastics, and fuels. They have three main divisions — Polymer Solutions, Catalysts, and Fine Chemistry. They provide innovative chemistry solutions to customers in over 100 countries worldwide.

CASE STUDY
Reaxys®
John Parks, Albemarle Director of R&D, Fine Chemistry

Reaxys supports and streamlines innovation in fine chemistry
CASE STUDY: Albemarle Corporation

“You don’t have to be an expert to get the best out of Reaxys. It’s infinitely better than information resources we’ve used previously.”

– John Parks, Albemarle Director of R&D, Fine Chemistry

John Parks, Albemarle Director of R&D, Fine Chemistry talks to us about how Reaxys supports the workflows of his R&D team to service a wide range of customer requirements.

**Business challenge**
The Fine Chemistry division has an incredibly diverse customer base and supplies chemistry to the world’s leading producers of pharmaceutical intermediates, industrial and agricultural products. They offer contract research and process development through to commercial-scale manufacturing.

Albemarle’s highly skilled R&D teams assist with synthesis route selection, process development, and analytical support. Reaxys is a critical tool in their workflow.

**Challenge**
John’s team deals with around 50 customer inquiries per month. Each inquiry is handled from beginning to end by a single, experienced organic chemist. Customer requirements are enormously variable, and also range from 1 kg of through to 10,000 kg compound.

In the search for optimized synthetic routes, how can researchers avoid synthesizing already-patented compounds, developing inefficient reaction pathways, using high-cost reactants, and running unnecessary experiments?

Reaxys enables the team to look for feasible routes to synthesize the customer’s molecule. Ideally, they need several routes that can be used to not only synthesize the compound, but enable easy scale up to the desired amounts.

“Reaxys vastly speeds up the time required to develop one or more synthetic routes to satisfy our customer’s requirements.”

Once accepted by the customer, the route generated by Reaxys is then used — with modifications based on Albemarle’s experience — to produce the compound for the customer.

Reaxys is also called upon to study similar compounds if something is not behaving as expected within an existing project workflow. It enables the optimization of existing synthetic routes through access to reaction yields, conditions, experimental procedures, and toxicity data.

“Reaxys is so much easier to use than other information resources we’ve had. The information is presented well. You can highlight the expected yield information and the experimental and physical data are right there, at your fingertips.”

Historically, information searches were performed by a dedicated information resources group. As the structure of the business has changed, the time saved by Reaxys has gained even more importance. The chemists themselves are now largely responsible for the searches carried out, spending about 10% of their time doing so.
“Good, broad coverage is exactly what is needed for our business, as we cover so many different project types. But you need to have the detail behind it. The usability, accessibility, and depth of information in Reaxys are all very, very high.”

– JOHN PARKS, ALBEMARLE DIRECTOR OF R&D, FINE CHEMISTRY

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“Reaxys delivers high-quality and relevant information from Journals and other publications in organic, organometallic, and inorganic chemistry. There are over 400 indexed fields of experimentally validated data.

“Reaxys plucks the best bits out of the literature — fast. There is no having to search a lot.”

Compared with other information resources, Reaxys is much easier to use, giving chemists more time for innovation — enabling them to meet their objectives and stay ahead of the competition.

“It's impossible to quantify how much time we save using Reaxys. Every day, we have small successes. The time saved on each inquiry mounts up to something more substantial.”

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Conclusion
A business such as Albemarle requires an information source that covers a diverse range of subjects in a consistently high level of detail and with easy access for all users.

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LEARN MORE

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