



Project Management Software to Support Global Growth of Group14 Technologies



GROUP14

Group14 Technologies, the world's largest global manufacturer and supplier of advanced silicon battery materials, found itself at a crucial juncture in addressing rapidly growing demand from global battery manufacturers and automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). To support the growth of the electric vehicles and consumer electronics markets, Group14 is developing Battery Active Materials (BAM) factories capable of producing commercial-scale quantities of its advanced silicon battery material, SCC55™. SCC55™ brings unmatched battery performance capabilities, including up to 50 percent greater energy density, improved cycle stability, and faster charging.

Joining its BAM-1 factory in Woodinville, WA, Group14 is building BAM-2 in Moses Lake, WA, which is expected to become the world's largest factory for advanced silicon battery materials. In the coming weeks, SCC55™ will begin to be shipped from Group14 and SK Inc's joint venture factory in Sangju, South Korea, which will become Asia's largest factory for advanced silicon battery materials.

Challenges:

As a fast-growing Washington State-based company, Group14 recognized the need for a robust [project management information system](#) that not only could align with industry best practices but also adapt to its evolving business processes.

Scalability - New team dynamics: As the Group14 team continues to rapidly expand, the company needed to integrate new members into the construction projects. Teams were looking to build trust and collaboration while teaching project specifics and established project workflows.

Collaboration - Effective management of external groups: Group14 managed a large group of consultants comprised of engineering firms, freight forwarders, construction contractors, and equipment providers. The varying timelines and priorities of different consultants can create coordination challenges, potentially impacting project timelines. The team needed to balance the expectations of each consulting entity while maintaining a cohesive and synchronized workflow.

Usability - Transitioning from manual: One difficult hurdle was getting the team to transition from its familiar spreadsheets and old tools. Shifting to a different system would require teams to adapt to new interfaces, functionalities, and collaboration methods.

Agility - High pressure leadership: Group14's organizational objectives were driven with urgency and intensity. Teams were setting ambitious goals and making swift decisions, and leaders were expecting quick execution from the team. Group14 wanted to capitalize on opportunities, respond to market dynamics, and meet the demands of accelerated growth



Requirements:

Group14 embarked on a strategic journey to identify a comprehensive project management solution. To match its specific needs, Group14 outlined specific requirements:

Financial Priorities: Cost management, capital planning, and cash flow forecasting were identified as top priorities. The organization needed effective tools to manage finances seamlessly throughout the project lifecycle.

Design Review: Group14 recognized the importance of an efficient design review process in its projects. The selected platform needed to facilitate streamlined design review workflows, ensuring that project teams could easily collaborate during this critical phase.

Analytics: With a forward-thinking approach, Group14 wanted to empower its analytics team and knew the selected platform had to provide data storage and pre-built reporting analytics.

Web Host and Mobile Compatibility: Acknowledging the prevalence of Mac systems within its organization, Group14 deemed web host and mobile compatibility as critical factors. The chosen solution needed to seamlessly operate on both web and mobile platforms, ensuring accessibility for its Mac-centric workforce.

Integration with SAP: While integration was not an immediate requirement, Group14 has plans to integrate with its SAP accounting system. Therefore, the chosen project management solution needed to be compatible and adaptable.

Portfolio Reporting and Dashboards: To improve decision-making, Group14 identified the need for robust portfolio reporting and dashboards. These tools would provide real-time insights and support strategic decision-making across the organization.

P6 Schedule Integration: Recognizing the importance of seamless project scheduling, Group14 emphasized integrating with P6, a widely used project scheduling software.



“There are a variety of applications that Group14 depends on regularly for our operations. As we grow, Kahua’s applications have the potential to help us accelerate in the future.”

Nik Anderson
Director of Program
Management at Group14

Solution:

After thorough research and evaluation, Kahua emerged as the ideal solution for Group14, addressing each of its challenges comprehensively.

The organization is currently focusing on practical, short-term effectiveness due to the team's growth by using crucial applications including:

- Portfolio Manager
- User and Group Management
- Document Management for RFIs and Submittals
- Field Observations
- File Manager
- Drawing/Design Management

Group14 saw significant improvements in just a brief time with Kahua, especially in cost management, where tracking contracts, budget changes, and change orders are efficiently handled. The **Issues Module** is used as a **Risk Register** to quantify cost risks and opportunities, providing valuable visibility into project budgets and risks for both project managers and executives.

Leveraging Kahua's robust out-of-the-box functionality and a **streamlined implementation** process led by Kahua Partner Onindus, Group14 established a resilient foundation for their project management endeavors, aligning seamlessly with industry best practices. In the words of Kara Dahlgren, Project Manager at Group14, the accelerated implementation, completed in an impressive **eight weeks**, played a pivotal role in meeting the demands of their fast-paced project.

She emphasized the platform's agility, stating,

"The platform has the option for a quick implementation process, which was really attractive to our team. We are certainly still doing some fine-tuning, but we were able to jump into the program immediately."

Sid Shah, President of Onindus, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the power of agility in technology implementation, especially crucial as Group14 aspires to build more factories across the globe. Shah questioned, "How do we find a tool to put together a process to match this?"

Martin Aztiazarain, Senior Project Manager of Capital Programs at Onindus, emphasized the significant value of the QuickStart program Onindus utilized for Group14's implementation.

"Clients approach systems like Kahua with challenges. They want to solve problems. QuickStart eliminates that very traditional implementation approach where it would take 6 months to a year at times to implement something large."

QuickStart enables clients to use the system immediately, providing them with initial value and allowing for a more natural evolution over time. This approach allows clients to tailor the system to their specific needs while enjoying immediate benefits.



Why Kahua:

Flexibility

Kahua's commitment to [flexibility](#) ensures that Group14 can navigate diverse project scenarios, accommodating changes swiftly and efficiently.

"Something that stood out about Kahua is it can be tailored for use by an owner, whereas many other platforms are geared for a general contractor, which is just a different use case than what we are looking for. It is well tailored to manage a program and not just a project." – **Dahlgren**

This adaptability empowers teams to tailor the platform to specific project demands, fostering an agile and responsive approach to project management.

"The flexibility that Kahua affords us was one of the key reasons why we selected it in the first place. We were looking to grow and make sure we can tweak apps and features based on how we think they need to be done. Kahua provides us a framework where we can grow into that framework and then build out things that might not be part of Kahua." – **Anderson**

Collaboration

Kahua emphasizes [collaboration](#) to foster a connected and communicative environment for project teams.

"A lot of the value in Kahua comes from the sense of community and the ability to bring different teams with different skill sets together in one platform and use it in a way that benefits everybody equally." – **Anderson**

Recognizing the vital role collaboration plays in project success, Kahua provides a suite of tools that streamlines communication, document sharing, and team interaction.

Scalability

As Group14 continues to rapidly expand across the globe, Kahua's platform is designed to grow alongside them, effortlessly accommodating the increasing complexities and scale of the company's projects.

"We see Kahua on a growth path parallel to Group14's own growth path. Our company is diversifying very quickly. Our ability to manage expansion, communication within teams, document controls, processes, and procedures is focused on Kahua to help us control every aspect." – **Anderson**

With Kahua in place, Group14 experienced a transformative shift in its project management capabilities. The platform addressed its immediate challenges and provided a [scalable](#) solution that could grow with the company. The integration of industry best practices, financial tools, and advanced analytics set Group14 on a path to manage projects and strategically steer the organization toward continued success. As Group14 continues to evolve, Kahua remains a reliable partner, supporting dynamic needs, and contributing to the efficiency and success of its projects.

Choose Kahua

Kahua is a leading provider of capital program and construction project management software, enabling innovation that is changing the way that capital programs are planned and delivered. Global organizations use Kahua's collaborative solution to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce project risk throughout the entire lifecycle of their capital programs. Our purpose-built solutions for owners, program managers and contractors enable rapid implementation that minimizes time-to-value and enhances user adoption. With the industry's only low-code application platform, customers can easily customize existing Kahua apps or even build their own new apps to run their business at peak efficiency today and rapidly adapt as business conditions dictate.

Learn more and request a demo today or email us at: connect@kahua.com



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