

## CHEMICAL TRACKING, INVENTORY & MANAGEMENT SERVICES SUCCESS STORY

### Problem

The disconnect between the accuracy of the chemical reports EH&S required and the ability of the R&D laboratory to track chemical containers was negatively affecting scientists' productivity and the quality of inventory reports.

### Solution

**VWRCATALYST** and ChemSW optimised chemical management processes, streamlined scientists' workloads and significantly improved the accuracy of chemical inventory and safety data.

### Result

The company has been able to significantly reduce disposal costs for expired chemicals, save money and time by eliminating quarterly manual inventory processes, and reduce the number of chemical containers on site by more than 30% since the programme was implemented.

## EXTENDING CHEMICAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT TO A MULTI-SITE SYSTEM STREAMLINES PROCESSES AND DELIVERS OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

### Problem

A leading pharmaceutical company discovered that the chemical reports required by the Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) department were placing significant labour and cost constraints on a key research and development (R&D) laboratory. The overburdened lab did not complain, but the EH&S data was rarely accurate. Management of approximately 6000 chemical containers on site was completed manually as time permitted. Unfortunately, quarterly physical inventory counts repeatedly unearthed inconsistencies between the inventory reports and actual inventory on hand.

Laboratory scientists collected the chemical data manually on Excel spreadsheets that were then provided to EH&S, a process that was cumbersome, inconsistent and hard to manage. Furthermore, the chemical inventory management activities negatively affected the scientists' productivity by taking them away from the lab bench, where their activities directly benefitted the corporate bottom line.

### Solution

ChemSW's CISPro® chemical inventory system was being used at two other company sites. EH&S invited a Lean Six Sigma trained Business Process Consultant to analyse the overburdened R&D lab's workflows, scrutinise processes and develop a solution. **VWRCATALYST** proposed that the facility extended the existing global contract with VWR for chemicals procurement as well as VWR site licenses to extend the chemical inventory system to the R&D laboratory.

"We didn't know that the lab had so much trouble providing chemical inventory data, but we were frustrated that their reports never matched what we found when we performed our quarterly physical inventory counts. When we found out that the lab was looking at commercial solutions, we suggested contacting VWR about extending an existing site license we'd heard a lot of good things about. I couldn't be more pleased with the result. Right now the company is discussing extending the system to even more sites."

-The Site's EH&S Manager



The new chemical tracking programme is managed by **VWRCATALYST** and includes the hardware and software, the implementation team and ongoing maintenance. Implementation included not just optimising CISPro for the site, but a thorough housekeeping and inventory of all chemicals on site.

The two driving forces behind extending the **VWRCATALYST** solution were streamlining the scientists' workload and ensuring the accuracy of chemical inventory data. As a result, the organisation was able to implement a cost effective solution that not only streamlined processes but also significantly improved the accuracy of the chemical inventory and safety data.

## Result

The chemical tracking programme has delivered greater assurance that the chemical containers on site are managed safely and more efficiently while relieving the laboratory scientists of workflow challenges. The chemical tracking programme has achieved numerous benefits:

- Inconsistent data has been eliminated; all chemical inventory data is now accurate and in real time
- Standardised colour coded labels ensure greater chemical storage safety site-wide
- Ability to track chemical location and quantity, as well as generate real time reports listing chemical containers by location, vendor, name, CAS number, formula and more
- Cost and time savings from elimination of quarterly manual inventory processes
- Disposal costs for expired chemicals have been significantly reduced
- Regulatory requirements are addressed better and reporting is significantly improved
- Better control of chemical inventory data
- Further, after **VWRCATALYST** performed a thorough

Furthermore, after **VWRCATALYST** performed a thorough inventory of the approximately 6000 chemical containers on site, eliminating expired materials and ensuring that all incoming chemicals are entered into CISPro, the system's real time tracking enabled the site to perform at the same level with only 4000 containers, as a result reducing inventory by 30%.

Are your scientific resources being wasted on non research activities? **VWRCATALYST** has the skills, knowledge and experience to support research productivity improvement at your organisation.

Visit [VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST](http://VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST) or email [VWRCATALYST@vwr.com](mailto:VWRCATALYST@vwr.com) for more information.

## We Enable Science Through Services

From research to production, **VWRCATALYST** can help you re-focus scientific time on initiatives that directly support the strategic mission of your company.

### **We Enable Science by:**

- Powering productivity
- Improving quality, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Reducing total operating costs

### **Our services include:**

- Procurement and Supply Management
- Laboratory and Production Support
- Scientific Support
- Equipment and Instrument Services
- Lean Six Sigma Process Consulting



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