

# Case study: **ProBioTracker**

A web-based supply chain solution that provides transparency and traceability of bio-based feedstock in chemical supply chains



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EY was asked by AkzoNobel, ABT and Solvay to provide a solution that could track bio-based feedstock throughout their chemical supply chains. The project resulted in the development of an online platform called ProBioTracker.



## Clients' challenge

The chemical industry currently lacks traceability over the flow of bio-based content in its supply chain. The reason? In many cases bio-based and petro-based feedstock are mixed because supply chain segregation is simply too expensive.

Over the past few years, AkzoNobel, Solvay and ABT developed, with the support of EY, a 'chain of custody (CoC) methodology' to enable traceability. This traceability helps companies to make pro-active procurement decisions throughout their supply chains as well as making environmental claims. Based on this CoC approach, we developed a virtual certificate system to follow the material all the way through the supply chain.

It provides ABT with the opportunity to realize its commitment to sustainable development and it supports AkzoNobel to deliver on its environmental targets related to carbon emissions (scope 3) in its value chain.



## Approach

With this project, we created ProBio-Tracker: a web-based supply chain solution that provides traceability of bio-based materials in chemical supply chains where feedstock is mixed.

The platform enables its users to make

online transactions to procure certificates in line with their physical flow of materials. Hence they are able to report on the quantities of bio-based materials purchased by them in a relevant period, and support their environmental claims.

The project was executed in the following four stages: In the first stage, we determined the scope in cooperation with key stakeholders to make sure business objectives were met and that the system was fit-for-purpose. In the second stage we worked through several Scrum stages to develop the detailed components within the system including reporting, transactions, user interface etc. In the third stage we road-tested the entire

solution with a limited number of supply chain participants. The final stage entailed a wider roll out, including other chemical supply chains.



## Added value

The platform provides a robust and reliable answer to certification and assurance for bio-based materials by enabling transparency and reliability across the value chain by means of a robust audit trail/chain of custody.

Moreover, the system provides sufficient flexibility so that it can be used, by the industry, across a wide range of products and supply chains.

**“** Yet despite the growing attention for sustainability, we still cannot easily track bio-based raw materials.

This innovative approach will enable us to further pursue our goal of making the chemical industry more sustainable. **”**

Peter Nieuwenhuizen, RD&I Director of former Specialty Chemicals at AkzoNobel.

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