

NIBC Bank meets with more convenience with **Power PDF.**

The compiling of physical documents to produce quarterly reports often took a lot of time and careful organisation at Dutch bank NIBC. In order to increase the productivity and efficiency in the preparation of these reports, the financial institution – whose offices in The Hague, Brussels, London and Frankfurt are home to six hundred employees – has now deployed Power PDF from Nuance Communications, in an effort to find a better way of doing things.

A future shaped by the past

In fact, finding a ‘better way of doing things’ is at the heart of the company’s ethos. The bank was founded in 1945, and its purpose was to repair the widespread damage caused by World War II. To that end, from the start, the bank focused on funding and supporting customers with an entrepreneurial spirit who wanted to action plans that would shape the reconstruction of the country for a better future. Even today, the company is committed to supporting entrepreneurs and it is selective about who it supports; when assessing a customer, it looks to the three P’s: planet, profit and people. In short, it means that the investments made by this financial institution aim to leave a healthy world behind for future generations.

Wendy van Beest, Compliance & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) officer at NIBC, explains more: “NIBC believes that the companies that take responsibility for the environment and society seriously are the future. We use this belief to determine who we do business with and how. We expect our customers to meet certain sustainability criteria, which are described in our sustainability policy. We will not conduct business with companies that are actively involved in the production or trade of dangerous weapons for example. We are very transparent about this in our policy, which anyone can read on our website.”

Powering down on print

Given its concern for both society and the environment, the company constantly strives for ways to ensure it is playing its role in reducing unnecessary waste. Reducing its paper usage ties in with its sustainability policy because, as Wendy states: “The excessive use of paper, negatively effects the organisation’s CO2 footprint.”

Wendy explains that once a quarter, the CSR Steering Committee convenes. When preparing for this meeting, Wendy is responsible for collecting all the documents, printing them off and distributing them to all the members of the team. This was not only a lot of work, but also led to a lot of documents being printed. The number of documents can vary from fifteen to twenty, with Word, PowerPoint and Excel being the main source files.

However, a tide of change started when iPads were made available to the bank’s staff. This opened up new possibilities, and opened the door to Power PDF. Wendy explains: “We were able to collate and compile the files and distribute the report digitally instead of using paper. But while the move to digital for this report was good in theory, the different source files needed different programs to run on to be viewable. This is feasible thanks to Nuance PDF Power. It gave us the ability to put all the files together and convert them to PDFs, to create a digital booklet that’s easily viewable from the iPad. The documents’ source file doesn’t matter anymore as the software automatically handles the conversion to a PDF file at the push of a button.”

Opening a door to operating efficiently

Platform-independence has always been the unique selling point of PDF. While the bank’s employees have received an iPad for their work, Power PDF’s attractive pricing also makes it easy for many more organisations to deploy Power PDF, bringing the convenience and

security of this file format to their employees, whether they are viewing PDFs on an iOS, Android or Windows-based device. With Power PDF, business users get all the tools they need to create, manage, share, and secure PDF files, plus additional features only available from Nuance for document conversion, search, connectivity and more. Power PDF has powerful features to accurately convert PDFs to editable Microsoft Office documents, combine and assemble documents from many sources into a single PDF, and collaborate on PDF files with a powerful toolset.

There is a further benefit to the bank from using Power PDF, as Wendy explains. “In meetings, you no longer see the meeting participants leafing through their papers looking for a particular point that someone wants to question. The rustle of paper is gone now because the documents are gathered in that one electronic binder, and are searched digitally.” That search takes them almost instantly right to the point where they need to be in the document.

This new way of creating and using reports has given peace and serenity to the meeting too, as everyone is equally responsive when needed; there is no irritation rising while waiting for someone who cannot easily find a certain document nestling in their pile of papers. That the use of Power PDF has made meetings more efficient, is beyond question, in Wendy’s opinion. “While we have not measured the time-saved in creating the reports, ultimately using the reports collated with Power PDF has made the meetings more efficient overall.”

While Wendy has yet to use Power PDF while conducting tasks in her day to day role, her experience of it when preparing reports for the CSR Steering Committee, means it’s only inevitable that she soon will. “I think it’s only a matter of time, because it’s just so convenient to work with.”

“Given our concern for both society and the environment, NIBC is constantly striving for ways to ensure it is playing its role in reducing unnecessary waste.”

Wendy van Beest, Compliance & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) officer at NIBC

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