

# ELO Customer Reference

Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH & Co. KG



## A breath of fresh air for accounts



*"ELO's digital invoice management solution has helped us significantly increase efficiency in our invoice verification processes. The employees in accounts are really impressed by the smart dashboards and analysis options in ELO Invoice."*

Holger Reischke, Commercial Manager,  
Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH  
& Co. KG

40 wind turbines with a total output of 200 megawatts stand proud as a symbol of the innovative power of municipal energy suppliers and the Trianel utilities cooperation. The success of the pioneer project to build the first offshore wind farm in the North Sea powered entirely by municipal utilities not only relies on the strength of the joint venture, but also on the digital invoice management solution ELO Invoice.

In 2008, a company was founded to plan, construct, and operate the Trianel wind farm Borkum, uniting the interests of public utilities and regional energy providers. Today, a total of 33 public utilities and regional energy providers from all over Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, and Switzerland jointly operate the wind farm off the coast of Borkum. The joint venture is a significant contribution to the energy transition project and climate protection goals.

Due to the ever-increasing number of invoices, the company's Hamburg office expressed the need for an electronic invoice processing solution. Today, the company relies on the ECM system **ELOprofessional** in combination with the digital invoice processing solution **ELO Invoice**.

# The solution

Practical benefits



## Overview

Country: Germany  
Industry: Energy and utilities

## Company

Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH & Co. KG, a joint venture of 33 public utilities and regional energy providers, is the first to commission an offshore wind farm in Europe off the coast of Borkum in the North Sea powered entirely by municipal utilities.

## Challenge

Digitization and automation of the incoming invoice process

## Solution

- Rollout of the digital invoice processing solution  
**ELO Invoice**
- Automated document recognition with  
**ELO DocXtractor**
- Structured data on dashboards

## The benefits

- Less time spent processing incoming invoices
- Streamlined invoice approval workflow
- Improved overview of liquidity and cash flow statements

## Strength in numbers

The stakeholders in Trianel's cooperative business model, municipal utilities and energy suppliers across Europe, have a common interest: to enhance the independence of autonomous utilities and ensure that they remain competitive in the energy market. More than 100 stakeholders and partners from the municipal sector are now part of this initiative. The strength that their combined contribution provides cannot be achieved by a single municipal utility alone.

When Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH was founded in 2008, it marked the beginning of a groundbreaking project in the energy market sector. The merger of more than 30 public utilities and energy providers led to the launch of the first offshore wind farm in Europe powered entirely by municipal suppliers. In the first phase of expansion, 40 wind turbines with a total output of 200 megawatts were built.

Another 32 wind turbines with a total capacity of around 200 megawatts are to follow in a second phase by the end of 2019. The wind farm already supplies more than 200,000 households with electricity from renewable sources, making an active contribution to significantly reducing CO2 emissions.

## The challenge: to reduce invoice processing time

Previously, employees at the Hamburg office of Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH had kept the accounts ledger in Microsoft Excel. Employees had access to the Excel files on a shared drive. Everything had to be done manually in Excel: overviews of open accounts and outstanding invoices, liquidity and cash flow statements, and so on. This led to different filing systems, which meant that it took employees longer to find documents and process invoices as a result.



The company saw an urgent need to improve the incoming invoice process with a focus on the following priorities:

- Entirely digital incoming invoice process
- Automated invoice classification and processing
- Wide range of data analysis tools

### **ELO Digital Office and Fluctus IT**

The experienced ELO Business Partner Fluctus IT from Hamburg was commissioned to restructure the incoming invoice process. The accounts ledger was digitized in just a short time on the basis of the ECM system **ELOprofessional** and Business Solution ELO Invoice. True to the company motto of transforming ideas collectively, the collaboration between Trianel and Fluctus IT was key to the overall success of the project. High user acceptance among more than 50 employees who work with the ELO solution are a testament to this.

### **Digital invoice management on the go**

The old accounts ledger system in Microsoft Excel was replaced with the help of **ELO Invoice**. Now, all invoices are digitized on arrival in the mailroom. Once they are in the system, the separate module **ELO DocXtractor** automatically reads and classifies incoming invoices, compares the data on the invoice

with the master data in SAP, and triggers a corresponding approval workflow in ELO. Six clients in the Trianel group of companies now work with the ELO solution. Each uses custom workflows with different parameters and values, demonstrating how **ELO Invoice** can be customized to individual requirements. Decision makers can approve invoices while out of the office with the mobile solution **ELO for Mobile Devices**.

### **Tools for staying organized**

Thanks to the various options for analyzing the data stored in ELO, such as a dashboard tool for visualizing information, employees now have a better overview of the current status of invoices, and can also view open accounts or current cash flow or liquidity statements at a glance. Other benefits of the ELO solution include the ability to get invoices approved fast by the respective department, or the powerful search tool ELO iSearch, which enables users to find documents in a matter of seconds.

On the whole, users in the accounts departments spend considerably less time processing invoices. Thanks to ELO the company has optimized its accounting processes and taken a decisive step towards greater transparency and business success.

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Holger Reischke, Commercial Manager,  
Trianel Windkraftwerk Borkum GmbH  
& Co. KG

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## Summary and outlook

In just a few months, Trianel was able to digitize its entire invoice processing system with **ELO Invoice**. The employees at Trianel are especially impressed by the collaboration with ELO Business Partner Fluctus IT and the flexibility offered by the ELO solution, which caters to the company's needs down to a tee. **ELOprofessional** is now also used in other parts of the company: The technical department uses **ELO workflows** for getting technical documents approved, and the legal department benefits from automated contract verification, which was also implemented with solutions made by ELO.

Trianel is already testing ELO's next best-practice solution: **ELO Contract** will soon be used to digitize and automate the contract monitoring process in the legal department.

Other projects in the pipeline include an order approval workflow, which Fluctus IT is currently programming based on the common ELO Business Solutions framework. The next step will be to upgrade to the most current version of **ELOprofessional** — a breath of fresh air for Trianel's business processes.