

Case Study: IGEM - Hydrogen Knowledge Centre

The Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) is a professional engineering institution dedicated to raising the competence and standards of individuals working across the gas sector.



IGEM serves both individual and corporate members, offering a suite of benefits including discounted access to over 80 technical standards, training materials, events, seminars, conferences, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities. Its technical standards - produced with input from gas industry volunteers - govern what can be done across the physical gas network and are sold globally, with customers ranging from individual practitioners to major international energy companies.

The Challenge

As hydrogen emerged as a key theme in energy decarbonisation, IGEM found itself at the centre of a growing body of research, data, and policy analysis - but without a central home for it. Working closely with government departments (including the then-Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) and gas network companies, IGEM was accumulating substantial hydrogen-related knowledge with no effective way to surface it for members and stakeholders.

The challenge was threefold:

- 1** A rapidly expanding body of hydrogen research was scattered across the internet, academic journals, and internal reports, with no single trusted repository.
- 2** IGEM's members - engineers, scientists, and policy influencers - needed a reliable, curated source of evidence-based content, free from the misinformation increasingly surrounding hydrogen topics.
- 3** Any solution needed to integrate seamlessly into IGEM's existing membership model, acting as a value-add benefit rather than a separate commercial product.

“There wasn't really a central point — hydrogen's a big topic in the engineering and industrial world, so we kind of wanted to create a home for that”

Sayda Lees-Manning, IGEN

Evaluating Options

Before selecting Ingenta's Edify platform, IGEN explored alternatives. One solution under consideration was a platform already used by a major industry stakeholder for sharing a content library. However, IGEN quickly concluded it was not the right fit for their organisation.

“It was very archive-focused and built in a way that just seemed very complicated — it wasn't quite fit for purpose. The search experience just felt very different to what you want, which is a Google, but for our hydrogen records.”

Sayda Lees-Manning, IGEN

What IGEN needed was intuitive, filterable search — something closer to a consumer search experience than a traditional library catalogue. The discovery of Ingenta came through a chance observation: Sayda noticed the Ingenta name at the foot of an existing client's website. That simple search capability — clean, straightforward, and effective — was precisely what IGEN was looking for.



Why Ingenta Edify?

Sayda calls out several factors that led to realisation that Ingenta Edify was the standout choice for IGEN and its specific requirements.

Scalable Simplicity

IGEM had government funding to build a defined initial scope: manual content upload, member-gated access, and a search facility with relevant filters. Edify delivered all of this cleanly. But critically, it also offered a clear upgrade path.

“We had the funding to build the basics — manual upload, access for members, the search facility — tick, tick, tick. But we knew it could do more, and that if we wanted to start some sort of automated ingestion from particular sources or commercial arrangements with journal providers, we could.”

Sayda Lees-Manning, IGEM

Future-Proofing

The ability to scale without switching platforms was a decisive factor. IGEM needed something simple at launch, but with ambitions that could grow — including potential API-based ingestion from major journal publishers and standards bodies such as BSI.

“It’s that future-proofing. It scaled depending on what we needed it to be, and we needed it to be something quite simple to begin with.”

Sayda Lees-Manning, IGEM

Proven in Practice

Seeing Edify in action for a similar organisation was the final persuasion. The American Society for Microbiology’s Edify-powered platform served as a compelling demonstration of the platform’s capabilities in a knowledge-rich, membership-driven context.

Established Track Record

With Ingenta having operated for approximately 40 years, IGEM’s due diligence process — reviewing submitted accounts, references, and previous client work — provided the reassurance necessary when committing public-origin funding to a technology partner. Ingenta’s Oxford base added a further note of confidence.



Implementation: Partnership and Support

IGEM came to the project without in-house software or publishing expertise. The implementation was therefore heavily reliant on guidance from Ingenta's engineering team — particularly in navigating the platform's configuration options, understanding publishing terminology, and making architectural decisions with downstream implications.

"We'd never done anything like this before. We were very reliant on the guidance that the engineering team were able to give. There was a lot of hand-holding, which the team seemed happy to provide."

Sayda Lees-Manning, IGEM

A Trusted, Scalable Knowledge Hub

The Hydrogen Knowledge Centre has become a trusted, centralised resource for IGEM's members and stakeholders, bringing together thousands of curated records into a single, searchable platform. It enables users to quickly find reliable, evidence-based information, addressing the challenge of fragmented and often inconsistent hydrogen research.

As part of IGEM's membership offering, the platform adds clear value by supporting engineers, researchers, and policy influencers with authoritative content. It also provides a scalable foundation for future growth, with the flexibility to expand content sources and capabilities over time.



Want to Learn More?

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www.h2knowledgecentre.com