

Engenuity - DB/Text® Works and Engineering Information at Ricardo Plc



Ricardo Plc, a leading powertrain and vehicle engineering technology provider, chose Soutron to help them supply information across their sites worldwide. The solution uses both Inmagic® DB/Text® *Works* and Inmagic® DB/Text® *WebPublisher Pro* and enables people to search for articles of relevance using a web browser.



One of the world's foremost independent automotive consultancies, a total of 12 DB/Text *Works* databases are in use by their Information Services Department, based in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. These cover a vast range of published and confidential material.

Ricardo's 'Powerlink' database holds published information dating from the early years of the 20th Century through to the present day, reflecting Ricardo's 80+ years experience in the powertrain industry, including over 200,000 articles, legislation and engine specifications. The database is the most comprehensive source of powertrain related information in the world and is continuously and rapidly increasing, with over 800 new entries being added each month.

In addition to bibliographic searching, the solution delivered by Soutron makes full use of the capability of the software to handle numeric values, and to search ranges, in a database of engine data. It also exploits the ability to link databases together, as the 'Engine' database is seamlessly linked to Powerlink, and accessed through a common set of query screens.

Powerlink source material includes references to journal articles, conference papers, patents, standards, manufacturer's literature and other technical reports. Material indexed in other databases includes confidential reports for clients, archive material and design drawings.

Powerlink is accessed by Ricardo's engineers from sites in the UK, USA, Germany and the Czech Republic via the award-winning 'R-World' corporate intranet, using the DB/Text *WebPublisher Pro* solution. Ricardo clients can also access Powerlink via the Ricardo website, on a subscription basis.



An essential component in building effective solutions is ensuring that system provider and customer work in partnership to establish an accurate shared understanding of requirements and a clear picture of how they can be most mapped to real world solutions. To that end, Soutron and Ricardo invested a great deal of time and energy in joint sessions to develop a vision for delivering the most effective possible access to Powerlink and, just as importantly, to construct a solid project plan to ensure delivery of a quality operational system.

"Using Inmagic DB/Text *Works* enabled the Information Services Department to take control of design and maintenance of the databases, leading to big savings in efficiency" commented Roland Christopher, Ricardo's Information Manager. "The Inmagic *WebPublisher Pro* product allows us to distribute our databases via the intranet and gives engineers access to information on their desktops, regardless of their location, worldwide".

"Using Inmagic DB/Text Works ... led to big savings in efficiency"

Roland Christopher,
Information Manager

Inmagic's DB/Text *WebPublisher Pro* provides fast and accurate search and navigation facilities, even in vast data sources such as Ricardo's Powerlink database, explains managing director Graham Beastall, at Soutron. "DB/Text *WebPublisher Pro* provides the Powerlink Database with search and navigation, but also converts data to HTML 'on-the-fly' and saves hours in the update and maintenance of web documents with its batch import, delete and modify functions."

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