

TRIZ, the smart way to solve problems

Anatech in Sittard (The Netherlands) develops and manufactures as an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) high-tech laboratory instruments for the analysis of e.g. polymers and pharmaceuticals. "The development of these precision instruments requires creativity, ingenuity and an almost innate urge for innovation. And these properties are largely present within the Anatech team.", says Archi Leenaers, president of Anatech.

In every innovative project there are those frustrating moments when a specific problem threatens to slow down the whole development. People then often argue in a circle or wander about, pushing the problem forward by concentrating on minor details. "Having witnessed that several times, I decided it was time for Anatech to look for techniques that can better help us under those circumstances. Industriebank LIOF and Syntens couldn't have come at a better moment to approach us with the voucher project, which they, together with the Dutch province of Limburg, called into existence." says Leenaers.

Pieter Hovens, advisor from Syntens, contacted Wim van den Elshout from DSM Kenniswinkel and Patrick Hendriks from Original Copy, a recently established company specialized in the adequate application of some new problem solving techniques. Already after a first short discussion, they decided that Anatech would be introduced to SIPS, Systematic Innovation and Problem Solving. Part of SIPS is TRIZ, a very smart way of problem solving, invented in Russia.

"Due to its very inspiring entourage, we choose for "Chateau Les Beaux Arts", in the valley of the river Ourthe in the Belgian Ardennes, as a location. A marvelous ambience to let creativity and reflection melt together. During three days and with the inspired coaching of Patrick Hendriks, our product developers got acquainted to the world of solutions SIPS offers. Apart from the theoretical base knowledge there was the possibility of applying it to a certain technical problem the Anatech team could not get grip on."



The problem in short: A potential new customer wanted Anatech to develop a certain new instrument. Members of the development team were enthusiastic about the possibilities to apply various new and partly pioneering techniques, but also feared to be confronted with a specific physical problem they encountered

before. Before signing the contract, Anatech wanted to know the chances of being able to solve that problem. Due to the consequent application of TRIZ, the team got confidence in their abilities to solve that problem and Anatech signed the contract.

"We are now very busy developing the new instrument, and it marvelous to see the anticipated problem actually happening, but also being able to solve it due to the results of the TRIZ exercises performed at Les Beaux Arts. Most probably this new instrument will be introduced to the market this very year.", Leenaers predicts.

Also Patrick Hendriks from Original Copy reflects very satisfied: "It was by far the most special project we performed. And it appears to be very succesfull for Anatech as well."

Source: www.kennisvoucher.nl



www.syntens.nl



www.originalcopy.nl



www.triz.org



www.clba.be