

edison365ideas drives Orica innovation with simple, sharable, and scalable ideation

Orica is the world's largest provider of commercial explosives and blasting systems to the mining, quarrying, oil and gas, and construction markets. It employs 11,500 people, servicing customers across 100+ countries. Founded in 1874, Orica's strategy is to be 'the trusted partner of choice', applying innovation to its solutions so that customers are more productive and better able to manage risk.

New ideas are business critical

Orica's operating environment is fast changing, and new ideas are critical to developing innovative and competitive products and services. The company's Research and Innovation (R&I) team is responsible for delivering its ideation programme.

"We have many customer situations, and product and service requirements where ideation is the right approach," says Research Support Lead, Magdalena Ball. "We need to be constantly on top of ideas – from our own people and from the wider business world – and relate them to what we do. You can't rely on people writing down their ideas. You need a way to encourage thinking and conversations, and to capture ideas before they are lost."

The team tried numerous options for gathering new ideas, including spreadsheets and different collaboration software, but failed to create the simple sharing environment that is vital for successful ideation. When the business moved to a Microsoft Office 365 platform, the R&I team saw the opportunity to introduce a solution that was consistent, integrated, and easy to use on SharePoint and with Yammer.

Employee voice

Orica's R&I team selected edison365ideas, a cloud hosted, unified ideas and portfolio management platform to drive innovation management and crowdsourcing ideation. Built on Microsoft Office 365, edison365ideas was ideal for Orica, enabling the company to identify areas of focus for ideation, and giving employees a voice and involvement in solving all kinds of business problems.



Industry

Manufacturing and Research & Development



Location

Kurri Kurri, Australia



Challenge

Supporting innovation with an easy-to-use ideation platform that can be scaled across the global company.



Products and Services

edison365ideas



Results

Innovative thinking, collaboration, and employee satisfaction improved as more than one hundred ideas are submitted, and nine are taken forward for implementation.



Partner

CPS

Employees have submitted more than one hundred ideas since edison365**ideas** was introduced in 2017, with nine of those being taken forward. Ideas so far have ranged from an increased focus on specific industry needs to internal process improvements, and project proposals for research.

One great example of the success of the platform was the idea to establish a programme of honorary and emeritus positions at Orica for retired staff. The purpose of the programme is to retain access to many of Orica's highly valued and knowledgeable employees, while recognising their achievements, and encouraging loyalty amongst future generations of Orica's most talented people.

Because many of its staff come from science and engineering disciplines, Orica finds they have the kind of enquiring and questioning minds that respond to the strengths of edison365**ideas**. Employees particularly enjoy the tagging, voting, campaigns, and reporting features. The R&I team augments the platform with regular 'shark tank' style innovation sessions, and offers awards and hack days to encourage use.

Even at such an early stage, R&I management believes the platform has improved innovative thinking in general, collaboration, and employee satisfaction. Research Support Lead Magdalena Ball says it also shows new recruits that Orica is serious about ideation and innovation.

Roll out

edison365 provides a common collaborative platform across the dispersed workforce throughout the world, capable of growing with the company.

*"We chose edison365**ideas** because it ticks all the boxes for us. It slots perfectly into our existing Office 365 platform, has all the features – tagging, voting, campaigns, and reporting – that we require, is very intuitive, and provides great search capability. Most important, it is scalable to meet our global business needs.*

*Nothing else that we reviewed or tested matched our requirements, edison365**ideas** is delivering over and above what we need and expected from an ideation platform."*

Magdalena Ball
Research Support Lead

Business benefits



Significant improvement in innovative thinking



100+ ideas submitted since edison365**ideas** was introduced in 2017, with nine successful ideas being taken forward



Consistent, integrated, and easy to use platform based on tried and tested Microsoft Office 365 technology



Scalable for rollout across the company

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