# CASE STUDY





# Refinery Improves Data Reliability and Traceability for Quality Certification

Visual MESA Production Accounting simplifies a complex accounting scenario

## **Key Benefits**

- Increased reliability and precision ISO-9001 and Marcado CE certifications
- Reconciliation between paper and physical accounting
- Saved time and increased business process efficiency

### Background

- European refinery running crude oil for different owners that require separate accounting
- 30,000 bpd crude oil, producing USD 1 million tons of bitumen/ year
- Labor intensive manual accounting

#### **KBC Solution and Results**

- Elimination of manual labor
- Improved traceability by automating complex calculations

# **Client Challenge**

A European operator refines crude oil for different owners that demand clear and separate accounting. It is mandatory for them to track ownership across the entire process from the crude oil reception, through the refining process up to the tankage and final products shipping for accounting purposes.

The operator has used Visual MESA™ Production Accounting (VM-PA) at this refinery for several years. They generate daily reconciled balances and provide physical and paper accounting for both hydrocarbon and energy. The VM-PA balance information is sent daily to the owners' systems, as well as the state fiscal agent.

In addition to the current complex accounting procedures, one of the crude owners requested the operator to provide the crude oil recipe from which each batch of asphalt bitumen available in tanks had been manufactured. They wanted to account for the different qualities of bitumen (50/70, 70/100, and 160/200).

Providing this information to the owner requires complex and time-consuming manual calculations and is very labor-intensive. The operator wanted to simplify this process. They approached KBC to see if it was possible to modify their current VM-PA model to automate this process.

# **The Solution**

KBC worked with the operator to adapt their current VM-PA accounting model. The implementation of this change was





successful. The model now automatically performs all the necessary calculations eliminating the need for intensive associated manual labor.

Through a web service, this owner now automatically receives daily inventory data from VM-PA directly into their remote systems. This data contains basic information for the design of special bitumen formulations, modified with polymers and emulsions. It is key for their bitumen production planning so they can meet specifications.

#### Results

The new calculations improve reliability and precision that could never be achieved through the existing manual procedures due to the complex nature of the process.

Thanks to this improvement, the operator intends to apply for ISO-9001 and Marcado CE certifications



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