



# Global copper company saves by automating materials requests

First Quantum Minerals, one of the world’s top 10 copper producers, uses Nintex K2 Workflow to scale materials handling processes and accelerate electrical and instrumentation (E&I) project implementations.

## Organization

First Quantum Minerals Limited

## Website

[www.first-quantum.com](http://www.first-quantum.com)

## Industry

Mining

## Country

South Africa

## BUSINESS SITUATION:

First Quantum Minerals electrical and instrumentation (E&I) projects department performs extensive procurement for projects across the world. The team sources materials available for projects, from all corners of the globe. The process was manually tracked through email, spreadsheets and paperwork physically exchanged for authorisations. It was challenging to compare quotations from suppliers in different currencies, and assorted units of measure. The process was onerous and prone to clerical and entry errors, resulting in delays and pressure for the team expected to delivery accurately and on time.

## SOLUTION:

Seeking to integrate and streamline the processes, the team chose the flexibility of Nintex K2 workflow to deploy automation for some aspects of its procurement and cost-reporting systems, beginning with materials rationalization and optimization function. Further enhancements included process automation through shipping, to onsite delivery. This has allowed field employees to access forms and documents and submit proof of delivery, predict delivery mapped to purchase orders and expedite accurate on-time payments. The feature-rich reporting, incorporating Power BI dashboards, allows drill down and drill up for users to better understand the data, and have complete visualization of procurement of trends and spend across project procurement. With standardised reports and multiple consolidated data sources, the team can share reporting and dashboards across the organisation, using multiple platforms and devices. Reports can be updated, amended and enhanced as and when required.

## BENEFITS:

- > Within the first nine months of the application going live, over 1 000 requisitions and more than 12 000 requisition lines were processed.
- > Not only was K2 a more cost-effective option by 50%, it provided a richer user experience with powerful and feature-rich workflows that fit the business requirements better than alternatives
- > Processing time and management of the procurement process was reduced by 30%, enabling the business to respond more effectively to fluctuations in demand from the projects teams and operations
- > Eliminated manual data entry into spreadsheets
- > Implemented standard currency and unit of measure conversions
- > Established system access and reporting from anywhere in the world Driving project productivity



First Quantum Minerals project team responsible for procurement and expediting onsite electrical and instrumentation was a lean team, burdened by manual spreadsheet entries to complete procurement tasks effectively. The initial scope of the implementation was to simplify the materials request handling process, rationalizing across line items from three vendor quotations. Originally called 'the button' – just a button that would work – the solution is now referred to as PERP, short for Projects ERP.

**“We found that most solutions couldn’t allow you to select and compare quotations per line item, and did not provide the user experience and design flexibility of K2.”**

The team has been using K2 Workflow since mid-2017. The platform has provided a tool that has taken an onerous and complex materials procurement process to an automated budget, invoicing and reconciliation system, ready for integration into the company's ERP system.

Material requests are received from site or design engineers and move through the process where the software is capable of emailing vendors. In brief, quotes are captured by line, then move to adjudication and step through end-to-end tasks in a background workflow. This has taken the requirement of physical baskets of paper, and a giant whiteboard for tracking, out of the process.

**What first started out as an automated data entry process has evolved into an agile platform that has been able to scale for vast projects on a global dimension.**

The frustrations of manual spreadsheet entry have been replaced with simple, flexible workflows that allow team members from across the globe to select, compare, cost, procure, track, reconcile and pay in through a single tracking system. This makes the process more convenient, reliable, accurate and allows for better reporting and accurate cost accounting.

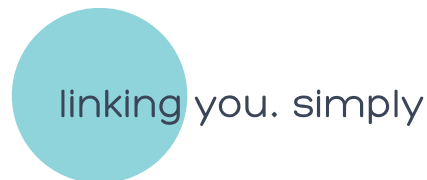
# “It really made it possible to do the work with the team that we had, without losing track of it ever.”

As Smith outlines, the relationship has developed into an extension of the company's DevOps approach.

“We were never a team with deep ability to build our own software but using a low-code no-code platform such as K2 has enabled us to constantly iterate the system and have the flexibility we require, with custodianship over the development process.”

Project engineer, Ron Smith, of First Quantum, explains more: “Prior to developing PERP, we were scaling up to a project that was truly enormous. It was the biggest that we had taken on as a company. The support our team was able to get from this framework that we built was invaluable. We were able to keep track of a much larger scope of work.”

The team regards the K2 framework and implementing partner, Linxus, as an extension of its own development hub, providing high flexibility and a continuous improvement approach through the iterations developed over the past three years.



## About Nintex

Nintex is the global standard for process management and automation. Today more than 8,000 public and private sector clients across 90 countries turn to the Nintex Platform to accelerate progress on their digital transformation journeys by quickly and easily managing, automating and optimizing business processes. Learn more by visiting [www.nintex.com](http://www.nintex.com) and experience how Nintex and its global partner network are shaping the future of Intelligent Process Automation (IPA).



## About Linxus

Linxus specialises in process automation, using powerful software platforms to transform business workflow automation, simply. The company transforms critical business workflows into digitized performance outcomes to support and enable business continuity and innovation.