

# Novatech International Improves Data Management and Project Efficiency with Uncountable

## CASE STUDY SUMMARY: UNCOUNTABLE + NOVATECH

At the heart of every innovative venture is the pursuit of simplifying and improving existing systems. Novatech is an innovation-oriented company that offers technology solutions for working professionals and contractors. The Belgium-based company specializes in adhesives, sealants, and surface treatment materials used in the construction, industrial, and transportation industries. In order to achieve the best quality possible, Novatech conducts extensive research on its products and materials.

**In this case study, we explore how Uncountable's R&D data management system has helped Novatech improve efficiency and deliver faster, safer, and simpler adhesive and sealant products for their customers.**

# novatech

## Key Takeaways:

- **Novatech, a Belgium-based innovative company,** specializes in adhesives, sealants, and surface treatment materials for the construction, industrials, and transportation industries.
- **Novatech faced data management challenges** before implementing Uncountable, including inconsistent data collection methods and difficulties finding useful data.
- **The key challenge** was to find a user-friendly and efficient solution specifically tailored for research and development (R&D) rather than production.
- **Uncountable's platform was chosen** for its user-friendliness, smooth data management, and potential for data analysis and forecasting.
- **Implementing Uncountable improved** data accessibility, enabled real-time cost calculations, and increased project efficiency for Novatech, paving the way for future AI initiatives in experiment design and predictive tools.

*"Uncountable allows me to access all the projects and all the data easily at any time of the day...everyone on my team can find and access data they need... [Uncountable] makes life so easy and so much more efficient."*

**Gunther Dreezen** | Innovation Director | **Novatech**



## ABOUT THE CUSTOMER: NOVATECH

Novatech, an international technology solutions provider of adhesive, sealant, and surface treatment products, is headquartered in Belgium, where it maintains two facilities. Their primary focus is on materials used in the construction, industrial, and transportation fields. Novatech works with European businesses and contractors to provide bonding, sealing, and surface treatment solutions across a variety of verticals.

Solving complex problems involves a research-focused and collaborative approach. It is important to utilize data and draw insights so that effective changes can be implemented. This is especially true for a company like Novatech, where the goal is to produce innovative construction, protection, maintenance, and repair products. At Novatech, researchers are observing, measuring, and iterating their designs on a daily basis. This research-intensive approach requires efficient research and development (R&D) processes and effective lab information management systems (LIMS).

In this case study, Uncountable interviews Gunther Dreezen, Novatech's Innovation Director, overseeing a team of 12 researchers focused on product development activities, including formulating new adhesives and sealants. Dreezen also manages product safety and health, certifications, sustainability, and the development of training programs for customers in the construction, industrial, and transportation fields.

## BEFORE UNCOUNTABLE: WORKING WITH UNSTRUCTURED DATASETS

Before Uncountable, Novatech was collecting and storing data on a project basis using folders with Excel sheets to collect and hold data. A project related to formulating adhesives would involve managing a raw material base, developing a formulation, recording experimentation, and collecting data. This led to several issues related to data management and continuity. ***“With Excel sheets, [...] the data is there, but no one is able to use it,”*** Dreezen explains.

Different people recording data each had different styles and preferences for how to collect data. Some people created smaller, more concise Excel sheets, while others created larger, more detailed sheets. Some data sheets were consistent and clear, while others were difficult to follow and unreadable. This caused a lot of confusion and frustration, as it was difficult to find useful, consistent information.

## THE CHALLENGE: FINDING A MORE EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO MANAGE DATA

Prior to implementing Uncountable's platform, Novatech was using Excel spreadsheets to collect their experiment data. With several people working throughout his labs on various projects, the use of multiple spreadsheets per project per person, resulted in inconsistencies and challenges in data standardization.

Despite the vast amount of data generated, traditional systems proved cumbersome and weren't tailored for R&D. Dreezen summarized the need: “An ideal system should cater to R&D, not just production.”



As such, Dreezen sought a more efficient solution due to the difficulties in managing data, as well as the lack of user-friendliness in traditional systems. He recognized that Novatech needed a solution that could handle large datasets on a unique project-by-project basis and also user-friendly to ensure team buy-in and discipline in adopting the platform. Dreezen highlights the significant volume of data generated in the lab and stresses the need for a system dedicated to Research and Development (R&D) rather than production: **“The data set that you're building in the lab is often times bigger than the data set that you will actually need in your production. [Uncountable's] system is dedicated to our R&D organization and not just our production organization.”**

While searching for a Laboratory Information Management System “LIMS” for his team, Dreezen evaluated five different vendors. He noticed most LIMS systems were **“very complicated to manage and maintain.”** He explained that it is almost impossible to manage large datasets that differ project by project. However, when Uncountable was suggested to Dreezen by a partner company, Novatech found the solution they had been searching for.

## THE SOLUTION: IMPROVE DATA MANAGEMENT WITH UNCOUNTABLE

Dreezen discusses three key elements that led to their decision to choose the Uncountable platform: user-friendliness, smooth data management, and potential for data analysis and forecasting.

User-friendliness was important to Dreezen because he wanted his team to quickly and easily transition to the new platform. Uploading historical data captured prior to Uncountable and onto Uncountable's platform was a smooth process and provided an accessible record of past experiments. **“Importing historical data and information to Uncountable's system was easy. As a result, we were able to maintain 80% of the information and data we had prior to using Uncountable,”** states Dreezen. All the relevant data was uploaded in less than two months.

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Innovation Director | Novatech

Smooth data management was a big win for Novatech after switching to Uncountable. Dreezen explains that **“the ability to have such a good overview on the data [that's] easily accessible, that really makes a difference for us.”** Dreezen no longer had to struggle to find and make sense of data collected by different individuals in the lab. With Uncountable, the data was standardized and structured in a way that increased productivity and efficiency.



Dreezen highlights the benefits of easy data accessibility, real-time cost calculations, and data analysis capabilities. The ability to access data quickly and perform calculations within minutes led to greater project efficiency, especially when collaborating. As Dreezen notes, **“for me, as a director managing the team, I can easily access at any time of the day all the projects and all the data. [...] And it's not just about me, but every person in the team who has access to the tool can find the information. You go into [Uncountable] and search for the data or the information you need. That makes life so easy and so much more efficient.”**

### **NEXT STEPS: HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF AI**

Dreezen touched upon the value of structured data for future AI initiatives and the importance of starting with a solid data foundation. He expresses excitement at the potential for more efficient design of experiments (DOE) with existing data sets: **“By building this data set in Uncountable, [...] in the future this will become an asset and give us added value, and that's sort of one of the key reasons why I decided that we want to go for this system.”**

Now that the team has a structured data management system, Novatech is able to leverage the power of predictive tools in the future thanks to the capabilities of the Uncountable platform.

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### **ABOUT UNCOUNTABLE: ALL-IN-ONE R&D PLATFORM**

Uncountable is a cloud-based software platform that helps the world's largest R&D organizations drive innovation. Uncountable proposed a SaaS platform to help Novatech's researchers manage their experiment data more effectively. This end-to-end platform provides various capabilities that structure and standardize lab information and experiment data traditionally handled using siloed spreadsheets, electronic lab notebooks (ELNs), laboratory information management systems (LIMS), and more. To learn more, visit our website: [www.uncountable.com](http://www.uncountable.com)

## **WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

For more information about how Uncountable can supercharge your organization's R&D efforts and strengthen collaboration, visit us at: [www.uncountable.com](http://www.uncountable.com) or schedule a free personalized platform demo:

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