



CASE STUDY

Bridging the renewable energy skills gap. A success story of PVcase, Enefy, and the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria

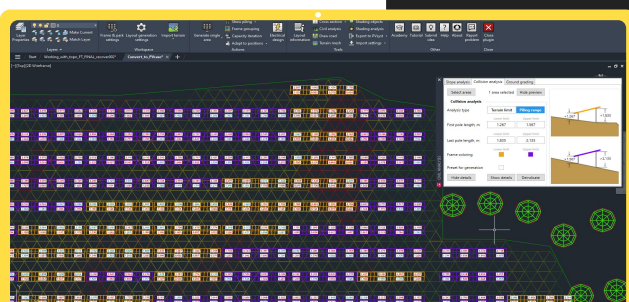
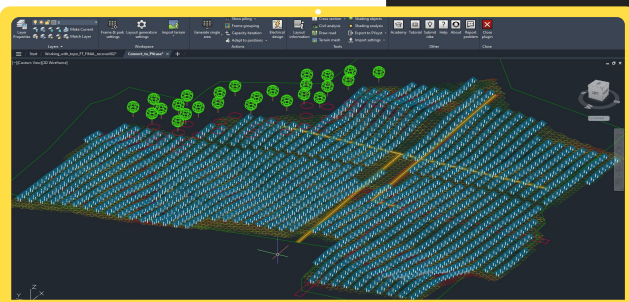


OVERVIEW

The rapid expansion of the renewable energy sector has created a high demand for skilled professionals capable of designing and implementing utility-scale solar projects. To address this growing need, PVcase, in collaboration with Enerly and the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, has developed an innovative educational initiative to prepare future solar engineers with the latest tools and knowledge required for success.

The university sought to provide students with practical experience in utility-scale solar planning and design using the latest industry tools by integrating **PVcase Ground Mount** software into the university's Sustainable Energy Systems master's program.

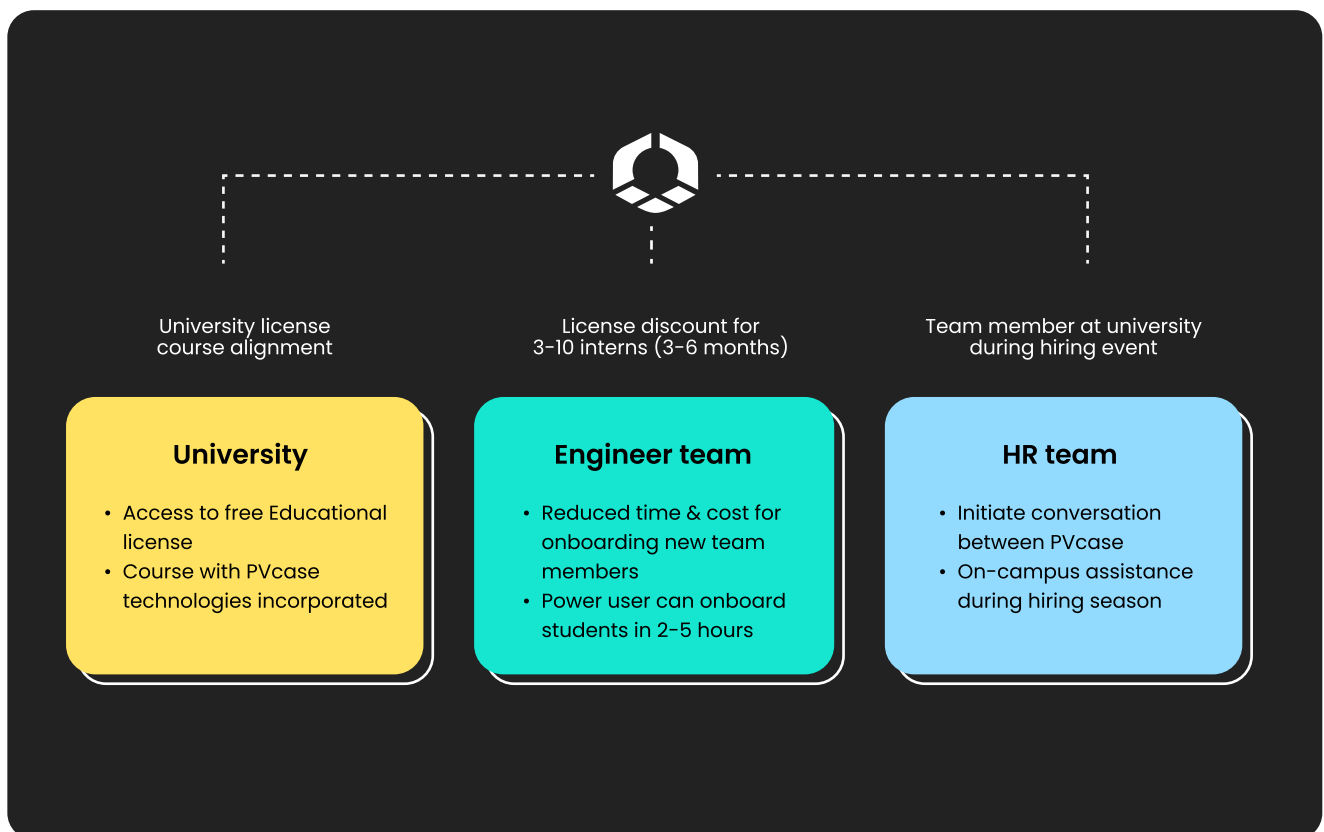
This case study explores how this partnership bridges the renewable energy skills gap and equips students with practical expertise by integrating PVcase Ground Mount software into the university's Sustainable Energy Systems master's program.



PVcase Ground Mount is an innovative AutoCAD-based software engineered to streamline the planning and optimization of utility-scale ground-mounted solar power plants. By leveraging advanced automation and intuitive design tools, PVcase Ground Mount drastically reduces the time and effort to evaluate and design solar parks. It accelerates the solar engineering workflow, allowing engineers to efficiently generate and optimize 3D layouts and electrical designs for terrains of any complexity.

BACKGROUND

University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria initiated the project to give students a hands-on approach to utility-scale solar planning and design using the latest industry tools. Eney, a proactive industry partner, joined the university to improve students' practical skills. Manuel Maier from Eney emphasized the importance of equipping students with practical know-how, while Robert Höller, the university's course leader, highlighted students' appreciation for industry-related applied projects.



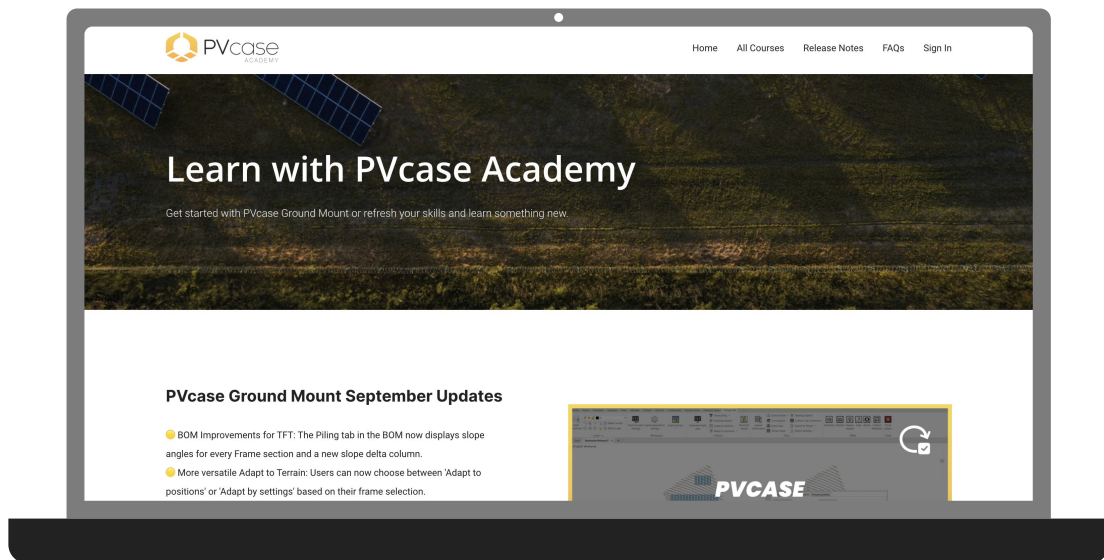
OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the collaboration was to upskill future PV engineers with the necessary competencies to become successful in the renewable energy sector. This included:

- ▶ Introducing students to the latest trends and practices in utility-scale solar design and simulation;
- ▶ Equipping future PV engineers with essential skills and knowledge;
- ▶ Addressing the skill gap in the renewable energy sector by integrating industry-standard software into the curriculum.

IMPLEMENTATION

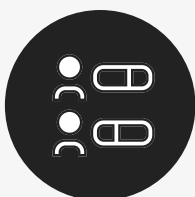
The university integrated PVcase Ground Mount software into the curriculum, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge from lectures to real-world scenarios. Moreover, Eneyr provided on-site lectures, onboarded students to use the software, and offered basic training using PVcase Academy. The program finished with a project where students designed and engineered utility-scale PV plants using PVcase Ground Mount software.



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

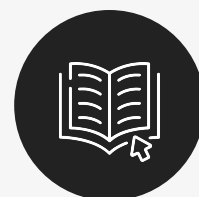
The integration process faced initial challenges, such as varying levels of AutoCAD proficiency among students. Therefore, the university introduced a dedicated AutoCAD course before the PVcase lectures, significantly improving the learning process. Additionally, Eneyr's proactive involvement streamlined the onboarding process and ensured students were well-prepared to use the software as effectively as possible.

CHALLENGE



Different levels of AutoCAD proficiency among students

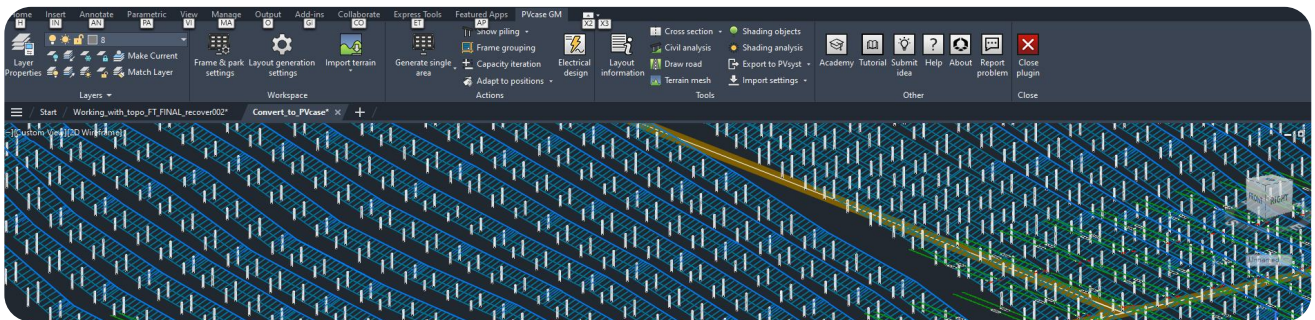
SOLUTION



Dedicated AutoCAD course;
Streamlined onboarding

RESULTS

Feedback from students has been very positive: **80% rated PVcase Ground Mount's ease of use above 8/10**. The integration of PVcase into the curriculum has equipped students with applied knowledge and prepared them for future careers in the renewable energy sector. Furthermore, the collaboration between PVcase, Enery, and the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is a model for industry-academia partnerships in addressing skill gaps and fostering practical learning experiences.



FUTURE PLANS

PVcase aims to expand its educational licensing program to top universities globally, connecting with institutions to provide students with the best tools for solar design. The collaboration will continue to evolve, with ongoing efforts to enhance the curriculum and provide students with cutting-edge resources to become successful in the renewable energy industry. As Nerijus Paulauskas, Head of Partnerships at PVcase, mentioned, the main focus will be:

01 Connecting with PVcase customers for internship opportunities

Establish strong links with PVcase's industry customers to create internship opportunities for students and facilitate smoother transitions from academia to industry.

02 Expanding PVcase Academy tools

Incorporating additional tools such as PVcase Prospect, Roof Mount, and Yield into the PVcase Academy to provide a comprehensive learning platform that covers various aspects of site selection, solar design, and performance estimations.

CONCLUSION

The partnership between PVcase, Eneyr, and the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria exemplifies the power of collaboration in addressing critical skill gaps in the renewable energy sector. By integrating PVcase Ground Mount software into the curriculum, the initiative has equipped students with practical expertise and prepared them for successful careers in utility-scale solar planning and design. This case study highlights the importance of industry-academia partnerships in driving innovation and preparing the next generation of renewable energy professionals.



Are you **an educational institution or student** eager to join this innovative program and enhance your skills in utility-scale solar design? Be part of our transformative initiative!

[**APPLY NOW**](#)

Is **your company interested in training highly skilled interns** to become proficient in the latest PV design software? Connect with us today to access our products for non-commercial educational purposes and train talented future professionals ready to make an impact.



[**CONNECT WITH US**](#)

