Catalyst Repository Systems’ Insight e-discovery platform with technology-assisted review is available in Japan.

By Sean Doherty

Catalyst Repository Systems Inc. launched today the company’s e-discovery review software Insight and its technology assisted review technology Insight Predict in Tokyo, Japan. The company will continue to offer the Catalyst CR, the company’s older hosted search, review and analytics e-discovery platform in Japan.

Catalyst Insight discovery platform culls, analyzes, reviews and produces documents for litigation and investigation. The system supports a NoSQL XML (Extensible Markup Language) engine that combines document metadata, tags and text in a searchable data store. The system’s faceted search interface combines multiple search strategies and reports on each individual search, documents related to searches, and aggregate results. Insight speeds review by displaying search hit highlights in documents and uses a fast paging technology to begin reviewing large documents immediately while loading the document in the background and prefetching documents to review.

Insight Predict uses a continuous, active machine learning technology to rank documents according to their priority to meet litigation and investigation requirements. Predict continuously orders documents by relevance to an inquiry. Review teams can immediately focus on what the system identifies as the most important documents in a collection based on previous coding decisions.

The time was right, David M. Sannar, managing director, Catalyst Japan, and vice president of international development, Asia region, told Legaltech News. Up until last summer, said Sannar, we haven’t had client demand for predictive ranking. But as predictive ranking became more and more popular, with documented benefits in saving time and money, clients started to ask for it.
Besides client acceptance, said Sannar, Insight and Insight Predict are now mature products for a mature market. Japanese businesses are involved in international litigation, primarily from the U.S. and Europe; government investigations emanating from European, Japanese and U.S. regulators; and internal corporate audits and investigations. Sannar also observes a new trend in Japanese litigation.

Japanese companies are suing other Japanese companies via their U.S. subsidiaries in U.S. jurisdictions, said Sannar. Compared to U.S. civil litigation, Japan does not have such a mature civil practice and procedure and lacks many recourses peculiar to U.S. litigation, such as large monetary awards.

Prior to today’s launch, if a Japanese client wanted predictive ranking, commonly referred to as TAR 2.0, Catalyst had two options: 1) send data to the U.S. for review; or 2) export the data from the Catalyst CR system to Insight Predict for analysis and ranking and import the results back into the CR system. Although CR remains a solid system, said Sannar, CR analytics can be slower than Insight Predict.

With the launch, Catalyst will offer Insight and Insight Predict as a fully-managed and hosted service, said Sannar. But he sees most clients using the managed service. “We don’t have many Japanese clients experienced enough with litigation to handle a lot on their own,” said Sannar. So most clients will rely on Catalyst to work directly with the law firms who work with the system. Japanese companies often take a back seat in the nuts and bolts of handling of the system and document review, said Sannar.

Catalyst will maintain two data centers in Tokyo. One will support Catalyst CR and the other Catalyst Insight and Insight Predict. Although CR and Insight are distributed systems, they have different hardware requirements. Catalyst various sets of servers to provide the review interface, advance search functions, and Insight Predict. A base system may have up to 200 servers, said Sannar, and scale according to demand.

Documents in Japanese litigation are primarily from servers, PCs and email systems, which includes IBM’s Lotus Notes and Microsoft Corp.’s Exchange, said Sannar. The work-life balance in the U.S. does not translate to Japan, said Sannar, who has more than 20 years of experience in Japan. It is more work-life separation. Japanese companies don’t support bring-your-own-device programs and company-owned tablets and smartphones primarily store duplicates of company documents stored on servers and PCs. But more than 50 percent of documents in Japanese litigation can be in “English, the universal business language,” said Sannar.

Catalyst’s multi-language capability supports 280 languages, including Chinese, Japanese and Korean. You can change the user interface to your native language, but the support goes deep into document processing and review, said Sannar. All documents are normalized to Unicode to present a unified search regardless of the original encoding scheme. Insight can group documents by language and translate over 30 languages in one click.

Asked whether the Japanese launch will unfold to China and Korea, Sannar said Catalyst is already hosting data for Chinese and Korean litigation in Japan and the U.S—mostly the U.S., he said. But since Catalyst has an office in Korea, it seems logical to grow that office and later establish something in China, said Sannar.

Catalyst faces competition in the Asia Pacific region from original equipment manufacturers Epiq Systems Inc., Kroll Ontrack Inc., UBIC Inc. and, occasionally, Xerox Corp.’s Lateral Data, said Sannar. He also observes the combination of kCura Relativity and Nuix used by consultants, such as Deloitte, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers.