SEWASIE is a 36 months research project, started in May 2002. SEWASIE aims at implementing an advanced search engine, which will provide European SMEs with intelligent access to heterogeneous information on the Internet. Relaying on an architecture that organizes information based on its semantic values, the SEWASIE search engine will detect meaningful data complying with user preferences and requests, integrating the search and negotiating facilities in user-friendly interfaces. SEWASIE will reduce transaction costs for SMEs, powerfully enhancing their access to key technologies and business opportunities.

The system architecture was designed as follows:

- A general framework will be responsible for the implementation of the semantic enrichment processes, leading to semantically-enriched virtual data stores (Information Nodes) accessible by the users. The created ontology must have a multilingual interface, based on a logical layer and coded using world-wide W3C standards. A query agent will secure query management and information retrieval, taking into account the information nodes. The Agent will detect commonalities among queries, determining the relevant nodes responsible for answering parts of the queries and it will split the queries accordingly. Finally, it will combine the sub-answers, providing the end-user with an overall answer to the original query.

- An information brokering component will include methods for collecting, coordinating and visualizing semantically rich data, intelligent information filtering and knowledge guidance services will be developed. Structured data will be linked to semi- or unstructured data via ontologies. The collected data will be visualized, showing search-related documents and result contexts.

Three kinds of utilisation were identified:
- "End users": simple searchers, either using fee-based or free searching services. The free scenario is feasible if the problem that requires a search activity does not need specific answers but only statistically reliable ones. In this case the system supplies answers containing links to the information.
- "Middle users": experts of a problem using SEWASIE to create a service. They create an ontology which has to be reliable and precise.
- The created services are used by the end-users. "SEWASIE as integrator of Information Systems in a middle-large enterprise" the user (directly or through a software company which acts as SEWASIE is able to treat the problem completely managing the SEWASIE software. He knows how to create the necessary ontology exploiting all the tools SEWASIE offers. This kind of user purchases the software and the know-how to manage it.