

Piaggio Aero chose the Version 6 PLM platform on Microsoft SQL Server to support product and process development, communication, data sharing, and decision-making across the product lifecycle of its aircraft. Version 6 on SQL Server enables Piaggio Aero Industries engineers to collaborate in real time with risk sharing teams around the world through a Web connection and to leverage their combined intellectual property.

Piaggio Aero Industries

Creating a global risk-sharing supply chain with Version 6 PLM platform

Founded in 1884, Piaggio Aero Industries is one of the world's oldest aircraft manufacturers. The company designs, manufactures and maintains both aircraft and aircraft engines and, to date, has produced more than 50 aircraft models including its flagship aircraft, the P180 Avanti II, a twin-engine, turboprop executive aircraft known for its distinctive styling, spacious interior and low fuel consumption. The company has 1,400 employees and operations in Italy and the US.

One of Piaggio Aero Industries' biggest challenges is to transform the company from a low-volume, niche manufacturer into a best-in-class, global aircraft player. In order to achieve this, Piaggio Aero Industries

had to improve collaboration with its global supply chain as well as its customers around the world. "Our business processes were too isolated; data was stored locally on different machines and often duplicated. Collaboration depended on sending data by email. This is neither a secure nor an efficient way of working together," said Roberto Zuffada, CIO, Piaggio Aero Industries.

MANAGING A GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

To transform its isolated business processes into an integrated collaborative environment Piaggio Aero Industries chose ENOVIA Version 6 PLM solution running on Microsoft® SQL Server® 2005 data management software. Version 6 provides a centralized PLM platform that supports product development, communication and data sharing across the product lifecycle of its aircraft. "We selected Version 6 PLM in order to create a safe, fast, scaleable and powerful collaborative base for an efficient, global, risksharing supply chain," Roberto Zuffada said.



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CIO, Piaggio Aero Industries

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Piaggio Aero Industries' new P1X6 business aircraft is a strategic project that will involve such a complex supply chain. "We wanted to provide a backbone for data management that is web based and at the same time, reduce the cost of ownership by narrowing down the number of suppliers and applications that we use," said Dario Dellavalle, PLM IT PM for P1XX and CAX Team Leader, Piaggio Aero Industries.

Installing the combined solution went without a glitch. "We are essentially using an out-of-the-box solution and the few adjustments we did make were on a user-by-user basis related to ergonomics," Dellavalle said. "Our past database systems required many days to tune in order to obtain acceptable performance levels. ENOVIA Version 6 on SQL has already surpassed our expectations when it comes to performance, reliability and security."

"SQL Server 2005 is the backbone of all Piaggio Aero Industries' data management and ENOVIA is the backbone of our product and manufacturing data," Dellavalle said. In addition to using SQL Server to manage all data, Piaggio Aero Industries has introduced other Microsoft technologies such as Microsoft® Office SharePoint® Server 2007 and Microsoft Dynamics® as its ERP solution.

REMOTE REAL-TIME COLLABORATION

The benefits have been significant. ENOVIA Version 6 allows Piaggio Aero Industries to create and collaborate in real-time from remote locations via the Internet. "Online remote authoring enables all of our stakeholders such as Piaggio Aero Industries employees, risk-sharing partners, suppliers, and customers to connect and work together simultaneously on the same project," Zuffada said. "With only a Web connection, our technology center in Napoli, for example, and a partner in the USA, can work together in real-time in the ENOVIA Version 6 environment. They can edit the same model remotely over the Internet without sending each other heavy files."

Versioning is a critical issue for an aircraft manufacturer. ENOVIA Version 6 provides Piaggio Aero Industries with a methodology and predefined processes that it can implement to have more control over engineering changes. "These predefined processes shorten our development cycle and therefore, time to market," Dellavalle said.

3DLIVE FOR AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Piaggio Aero uses ENOVIA 3DLive to provide both technical and non-technical employees access to corporate intellectual property and to enable them to work together in 3D over the Web. "The Version 6 interface is very intuitive. Its immersive qualities and powerful search, navigation, and collaboration capabilities allow any user, not just engineers, to easily find information, communicate, collaborate, and experience products in 3D online," Zuffada said. "Everyone has access to the single version of the truth in real time."

Enhancing the quality of information delivered to users, Piaggio Aero will soon upgrade the ENOVIA Version 6 solution to run on SQL Server 2008. SQL Server 2008 enhances database productivity with features that allow Piaggio Aero to create policies that control security, database options, object naming conventions, and other settings at a highly granular level. SQL Server 2008 helps deliver richer information to users through advanced visualization capabilities, detailed reports, and integrated analyses.



For more information:
www.piaggioaero.com