

LANGEN PACKAGING

ENOVIA SmarTeam delivers powerful data management solution



Overview

■ Challenge

Replace a home-grown product data management program written in outdated code

■ Solution

ENOVIA SmarTeam federates all of Langen's key systems, from ERP to e-mail, including 3D CAD data, all with room for growth in functionality

■ Benefits

A robust, stable environment with external support and development resources frees up Langen's internal staff and enables continued growth



Packaging company puts product front and center

Langen Packaging of Mississauga, Ontario, which manufactures the machinery used to package products ranging from food and durable goods to cosmetics, paper, pharmaceuticals and many others, is a company ahead of its time. In 1990, long before most industrial IT users had ever heard of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), Langen began to build a home-grown system that put product information at the center of everything.

From bill-of-material (BOM) management to ERP integration and from engineering to purchasing, manufacturing, and sales, Langen made vital product information available to everyone in the company, facilitating collaboration and improving efficiency.

"Many companies tend to think in terms of ERP being the center of the universe," says Mirek Tokarz, Director of Technology Development for Langen. "However, historically this approach does not provide adequate tools for project management. Once you put the product at the center, as our system did and as PLM does, everyone sees the same goal and the same information. It eliminates a lot of work by eliminating redundancy."

By 1998, Tokarz realized that Langen's home-grown system was growing old and becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, especially due to its outdated computer language. At the same time, Langen also was poised to make the transition from a 2D drafting system to 3D CAD, a challenge beyond the legacy system's capabilities.



"ENOVIA SmarTeam links all relevant project information and documents, making product data transparent to all the departments and people involved in the process."

Mirek Tokarz, Director of Technology Development, Langen Packaging





“Langen projects undergo a very dynamic change management process. Our software infrastructure greatly improves communication efficiency. We could not function well without a system like ENOVIA SmarTeam.”

Mirek Tokarz, Director of Technology Development, Langen Packaging

A new budget in 2002 allowed Langen to purchase a replacement for its aging system – ENOVIA SmarTeam, Dassault Systèmes’ collaborative Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution for the SMB market. Three years into the implementation, ENOVIA SmarTeam is now even more central to the company’s operations than its home-grown system once was.

ENOVIA SmarTeam pervades company’s operations

Thanks to ENOVIA SmarTeam, Langen has maintained control over its product data. “Engineering uses ENOVIA SmarTeam to control all the design data, whether 2D drawings or 3D CAD files,” Tokarz said. “In addition, we customized the BOM management system in ENOVIA SmarTeam to suit our production environment.” Project managers use ENOVIA SmarTeam to track project progress, Manufacturing uses the viewer to examine 3D models and detail drawings, Engineering Standards maintains its libraries in ENOVIA SmarTeam, and everything from RFP inquiries to commercial correspondence and project-relevant e-mails can be managed and searched through the system.

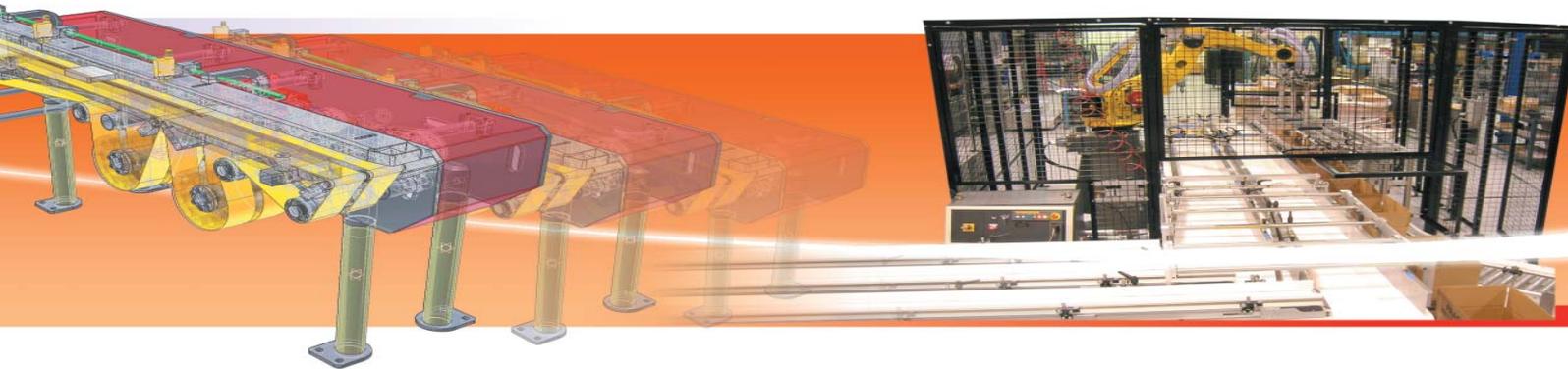
All of Langen’s legacy data was imported into its ENOVIA SmarTeam database, which integrates with the company’s Made2Manage ERP system. The imported data included about 350,000 parts and components and more than 1.5 million BOMs, many of which are still in daily use.

“We are deploying ENOVIA SmarTeam into our sales process to control all our quotations, and we are developing a full costing system for our products using data coming out of ENOVIA SmarTeam and our ERP system,” Tokarz said. “In short, we are using ENOVIA SmarTeam to link project information and documents, improving collaboration between all the departments and people involved.”

Langen is currently using 60 seats and has another 30 in reserve to allow for growth.

Varied product set easily managed

ENOVIA SmarTeam is the perfect solution for Langen because it allows the company to work the way it prefers to work while supporting the design and manufacture of a varied product set that includes many customized packaging systems.



“We will build anything from a simple manual cartoner to put product into a carton, all the way up to an entire factory,” Tokarz said. “We’ve done huge, multi-million-dollar projects, and we sell small cartoners to co-packers. Many of our products are highly customized.”

It is not unusual for Langen to begin building a machine on the manufacturing floor even while customer-driven changes continue to occur in Engineering. “We are well equipped to handle a very dynamic change management process that requires tremendous communication between engineering, purchasing and assembly. A system like ENOVIA SmarTeam brings a lot of value to our business environment.”

Marketing, after-sale service next on radar screen

Langen has just begun to leverage the power of its ENOVIA SmarTeam system. Langen employees are constantly thinking of new ways to use it. Langen works closely with Dassault Systèmes and its local Dassault Business Partner to put those ideas to work.

One of Langen’s first expansion projects is focused on its Marketing department, which maintains a large library of videos, photographs, brochures, and technical literature about Langen’s products. All of those materials soon will be stored and managed in ENOVIA SmarTeam, ensuring easy access to the most relevant and up-to-date information throughout the company.

Langen also is focused on using ENOVIA SmarTeam to improve its service after the initial sale, a project that Tokarz believes will help the company’s customers and should generate substantial additional revenue for Langen.

“In our old system, whenever a customer came back and asked for a change in their machine, the change was stored as a separate project,” he said. “Without product version controls it was very difficult to maintain exact engineering records of the machine as it was modified over the years. At times the work involved was too much of a resource drain.”

“With the revision mechanism of ENOVIA SmarTeam, machine data is always provided in full historical context, enhancing Langen’s sales of product upgrades focused towards relevant customers.”

Mirek Tokarz, Director of Technology Development, Langen Packaging

Using ENOVIA SmarTeam, retrofits and updates are created as revisions of the original data used to build the machine. "With ENOVIA SmarTeam, you always work with the entire history of the machine. Engineers always work on the latest machine configuration and no additional updates are required. With proper documentation, we also know exactly which parts are on every machine. If we develop a better module, we can query the database, generate a list of relevant as-built machines, and invite those customers to purchase the upgrade."

Langen has been populating the database with revision-managed content for only about a year, but as the historical data grows, so, too, will its value. "It's too early yet to rate the benefits for the aftermarket," Tokarz said. "That kicks in five years down the road. But it offers tremendous new revenue potential, and in the meantime it is helping us respond better to customer requests."

As much as Langen valued its home-grown PLM system, Tokarz expects it will come to depend even more on its ENOVIA SmarTeam investment.

"We have been exercising the PLM process at Langen for many years," he said. "ENOVIA SmarTeam accelerated the process and opened up new opportunities. Access to uniform product knowledge and an absence of information duplication are keys to business success. Having one global database that we can rely on, and a powerful system to manage it, gives Langen a tremendous advantage in the marketplace."



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