



The Avery Platform balance.



A range of Avery balances.



The MP 300 retail scale.

ENOVIA SmarTeam Lightens the Load at Avery Weigh-Tronix

By Nick Lerner



A range of gravity slicers.

Avery Weigh-Tronix produces some of the most accurate weighing equipment in the world. ENOVIA SmarTeam has played a major role in establishing a worldwide R&D operation following a number of company acquisitions. The first implementation phase has been operational for several months and is already providing more control and improved access to product data.

CREATING ORDER

The company employs 2600 people and operates multinational research and development (R&D) teams working principally in Birmingham, UK and Minnesota, USA, with software development in India. It is the R&D division that has been the first to benefit from the ENOVIA SmarTeam implementation.

Dr Roy Cann, the company's Worldwide Director of R&D, described the need for PLM. "The range of weighing systems that we manufacture, sell and service are based on more than 300,000 components. Each territory in which we sell has its own individual standards and local requirements for weighing accuracy. This requires a significant number of market variants in our product lines."

With the merger of Weigh-Tronix and Avery in 2000, the company was finding it increasingly difficult to monitor its part, assembly and R&D project data. This was exacerbated by having multiple part-numbering systems and no cogent method of enforcing workflow.

DEFINE ALL RELATED DATA

Roy Cann explains, "We recognised that a systematic workflow system needed to be introduced to integrate departments of the company across the world and enable channelling of engineering requests. We needed a standard method to encompass and control the generation of components, software, electrical systems, approval certification and technical documentation. In other words, we needed to be able to define all related data in a single enterprise-wide collaboration system, for use across our extended enterprise."

Heath Tipton, the company's PLM Project Manager provides some project background, "In early 2005 we investigated a range of PLM systems and, based on a 37-point functional weighting, selected ENOVIA SmarTeam to be supplied by our partner Design Rule. Full implementation is an ongoing process in several defined stages. Stage one has been completed, and for the first time the company has a unified R&D project system that encapsulates and defines all of our parts and project data."

ENOVIA SmarTeam produces significant improvement at Avery Weigh-Tronix.

The effect on the company has been immediate and profound, as Heath Tipton explained, "Going from virtually no system to one as comprehensive as ENOVIA SmarTeam has given us the ability to see exactly what is happening in R&D. We now define all projects using ENOVIA SmarTeam. The system helps engineers to prioritise projects better, and gives better visibility of where they are spending their time. This has immediately halved unplanned activity. ENOVIA SmarTeam now allows us to find data related to projects instantly. This gives us the confidence that we are working productively and saves time previously spent searching for project-related data".

The software has facilitated recognition of instances where part consolidation is possible. We expect this feature to help reduce part inventory, producing consequent financial savings over time.

CENTRAL CONTROL - LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

Data input is now in the hands of engineers. This has not only saved labour, but also

increased accuracy and enabled real-time operation based on rapid UK/US data refreshes. This will lead, in the next phase, to concurrent engineering practice when ENOVIA SmarTeam is fully interfaced with the manufacturing side of the company. "Once R&D has fully defined our product knowledge in the system," says Heath Tipton, "the potential for using and re-using this data across the organisation is enormous."

On the theme of manufacturing Heath Tipton comments, "The software has provided us with the ability to adapt to locally available tools and engineering environments, without losing design intent."

IMPRESSIVE METRICS

"At point of project completion we fully expect ENOVIA SmarTeam to deliver:

- A 54% improvement in the time spent to find records
- A 35% reduction in the time to fix BOM errors
- A 35% cost saving from better synchronisation between remote sites

- 300 fewer engineering changes per year
 - Quicker time to market and improved engineering efficiency
 - Reduced bid preparation time
 - Reduced costs to administer and execute engineering changes."
- Heath Tipton summed up his PLM ambitions for the company: "In phase one we have put the skeleton of a PLM strategy in place. In the next phases the flesh will be added and from what we have seen, as far as Avery Weigh-Tronix is concerned, – the system potential is huge."

Design Rule is the Dassault Systèmes Partner that is guiding Avery Weigh – Tronix through the installation, implementation and benefit maximisation of their PLM system. Concerning their services, Heath Tipton said, "Design Rule's experience fits our requirements very well. They understand and react to our needs and have quickly become an extension of our business. Their training is excellent in its scope and appropriateness, while their ability to transfer our million+ data-records to the new database is solid proof of their skills and overall competence" •

For Further information:

www.averyweigh-tronix.com
www.designrule.co.uk

More about Avery Weigh-Tronix

A world-leader in weighing systems and technologies, the company supplies all parts of the market with an impressive range of products, systems and services. Avery Weigh-Tronix designs and manufactures weighing systems for supermarkets, airports, quarries, banks, and weighing components in thousands of other applications.