



Solar Gain

By Nick Lerner

UK environmental energy system design and engineering firm Solar Century is equipped with an IT infrastructure delivering self-managed efficiency and automation - in record time.

Based in London and Waterloo, UK, Solar Century, designs and installs solar panels across the world and is the premier firm for this increasingly significant part of the building industry.

UP ON THE ROOF

With all responsible property owners now considering their carbon footprint, Solar Century is experiencing rapid business expansion with consequent increased demands on its own infrastructure. The company employs around 100 people - and counting. Mat Burgess, the company's Development Manager, described how by partnering with UK Dassault Systèmes

Value Added Reseller Design Rule, they have introduced a flexible ENOVIA SmarTeam-based methodology that provides the tools to efficiently manage all future business expectations. "Like many growing companies, Solar Century was running a range of diverse business management software which was not effectively connected. This led to inevitable operational inefficiencies which we recognised and sought to address using Design Rule's expertise."

FREE THE POWER

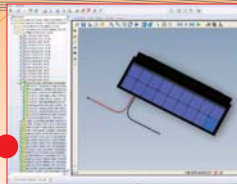
Generating your own power and selling it into the grid will become more profitable in the UK as it grasps the realities of sustainability and this spells sunny times for Solar Century. Design Rule MD Bob Hiller commented, "Inevitably companies that grow fast from a small base have the same issues to deal with as larger companies and many outgrow their IT infrastructure even before it has delivered any real business benefits. To deal with Solar Century's plans, an ENOVIA SmarTeam solution that matches the business' current and future requirements has been deployed which can grow with them and is indeed grown by them using their own resources."

By also using a set of software tools, DRLTools, developed by Design Rule, to augment ENOVIA SmarTeam, Mat Burgess is able to more easily configure and fully utilise ENOVIA SmarTeam objects and associated data, design his own forms and objects and link their content with the same powerful ENOVIA SmarTeam technology and reporting systems that are used by the worlds leading design to manufacture enterprises.

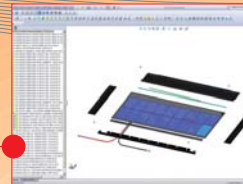
He said, "Design Rule's ENOVIA SmarTeam Productivity Tools (DRLTools) allow us to synchronise information within and beyond our enterprise more intelligently. Automatic actions are generated from object input. This saves time on every job because the data builds into a single complete system that delivers all the information that people need in the way that they need it."

MAGNIFIED VISION

All information in ENOVIA SmarTeam is validated 'in process'. Solar Century data covering workflows, documentation, CAD, Bills of Materials, version control, budgets, project progression, materials specification, suppliers, purchasing and quotations is managed using SmarTeam Engineering Express, Workflow, BOM and Community Workspace. DRLTools is an enabler for delivering greater user acceptance and consequent productivity efficiency benefits.



ENOVIA methodology provides business benefits at Solar Century



Design Rule Tools for business process automation

feature



designrule

ENOVIA allows us to synchronise information within and beyond our enterprise more intelligently.

"Measuring and reporting project progress in relation to business expectations is now a simple process that offers the benefits of being concurrent, consistent and in real time. This delivery of current business intelligence allows decisions to be made that are based on more reliable information."

Bob Hiller added, "The technology used by the worlds leading manufacturers to unlock the value of company data was deployed at Solar Century in just two months. By utilising Dassault Systèmes ENOVIA SmarTeam methodology in a company with the size of Solar Century, its ability to improve efficiency is magnified. Profitability and working efficiencies become instantly visible while a complete workflow methodology becomes available."

Many of Solar Century's customers benefit from a service that includes technical consultancy, system design, panel manufacture and final installation. The company also devises and delivers other systems including wind turbines. The company has a strong network of partners who are now able to collaborate with Solar Century generating concurrent working practice. This allows for great productivity gains since there is less reliance on completion of one part of project before another can start.

LOFTY AMBITIONS

Mat Burgess commented, "Among the advantages of ENOVIA SmarTeam is control over change orders and the communication of engineering concerns in a targeted way so that the correct expertise can be efficiently brought to a project. These factors allow people access to pertinent information and, as the company grows, these software tools enable us to create new elements to our workflow to accommodate varying circumstances within our extended supply chain. As the system grows, the further automation that DRLTools helps develop will create more intelligent objects while the data that they contain or relate to become an increasingly valuable business asset. Also, because the system integrates with the MS Office suite of software, applications such as MS-Excel can be used to great effect and its data bi-directionally integrated with ENOVIA SmarTeam to create further efficiencies."

Estimates suggest that if every building in London were equipped with solar panels, the scheme could pay back in three years and provide more than enough energy for the city's needs for generations; the same is true for the whole planet. Solar Century is positioned to take advantage of market growth equipped as it processes an IT infrastructure that is not only future proof enough to take the company safely into its destiny but is increasingly becoming an AEC industry standard technology toolset. »

For more information:
www.solarcentury.com
www.designrule.co.uk



ENOVIA SmarTeam supports Innovation at Solar Century

ENOVIA SmarTeam and DRLTools benefits:

- Concurrent working practices
- Greater control over processes
- Interoperability with Windows-based applications
- Increased operational optimization
- Quick, intuitive and flexible software configuration
- Greater control over the product lifecycle
- Visibility of project status
- Audit trail and adherence to standards
- Fast accurate communications enabled across the extended enterprise

Solar panels bring sustainable advantage

