

Daikin Industries

Daikin Industries improves production line capacity by 30% with DELMIA



Overview

Challenge

Daikin Industries requires high flexibility production lines in order to adapt to rapidly shifting demand in the consumer air conditioner market

Solution

The company uses Dassault Systèmes' DELMIA QUEST 3D production line simulation solution to develop high flexibility, low cost production lines

Benefit

By enabling Daikin Industries to try and test different options in the early design stage, DELMIA QUEST has helped the company to increase line production capacity by as much as 30%.



"Thanks to DELMIA QUEST, we were able to show management what the plant would look like using 3D animation. This was a significant benefit."

Kunihisa Komada
Air Conditioning Manufacturing Division
Daikin Industries



An industry leader and longtime user of DELMIA QUEST

Japan's Daikin Industries, Ltd. is a global leader in the commercial and industrial air conditioning systems market, with more than 40% of the market share in Japan and a well-established presence in China, Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America. The company is also one of the leaders in the fluorochemicals industry, with an approximately 20% share of the world market. The company employs roughly 19,000 people and has manufacturing operations in 11 countries.

Daikin Industries has used Dassault Systèmes' 3D production line simulation solution DELMIA QUEST for 10 years. DELMIA QUEST enables manufacturers to position the required elements for production facilities such as personnel, conveying systems, and materials, in a virtual space, then construct and validate virtual production lines. Simulating the

production line in advance makes it possible to analyze equipment capacity, staffing, and buffer discrepancies between processes, quantitatively and visually, thereby shortening construction lead times.

Expansion of air conditioning sales channels prompts deployment of DELMIA QUEST

In 1990's, the company's share of the consumer air conditioning market was small. In order to expand its business, the company extended the scope of its sales channels from construction companies to mass consumer electronics retailers, which generated bigger sales volumes. On the manufacturing front, it needed to ensure increased flexibility to respond quickly to fast-evolving consumer demand.

"With mass consumer electronics retailers, it's unacceptable if there's nothing on the shelves when a heat wave arrives. We have to be ready.



But at the same time, we need to build production lines that allow us to cut output quickly when it's a cool summer, while also maintaining productivity," said Kunihisa Komada, Air Conditioning Manufacturing Division Production Engineering Dept. DELMIA QUEST was deployed to build and enhance flexible production lines in both domestic and overseas plants.

Adjustment to work processes enhances efficiency by 30%

Daikin Industries first used DELMIA QUEST to optimize production lines at the company's Shiga plant. At the time, the lines were not operating at maximum capacity. Firstly, Daikin Industries engineers modelled and verified the existing lines. Next, they verified the locations of production line bottlenecks by varying parameters of production factors such as plans, allocation and workforce, work content and equipment capacity.

"Interference can occur when automated equipment and humans come into contact with each other. Due to worker limitations, equipment can't always work at maximum capacity. The simulation in DELMIA QUEST demonstrated that even if we increased the equipment capacity on this line, the capacity of the overall process wouldn't increase significantly," said Komada.

To improve this situation, 'what-if' scenarios were simulated and it was determined that if part of the work

carried out previously by one worker was shared between workers in the process chain, significant improvements would result. Ultimately, the process capacity was improved by 30% with the same equipment and workforce simply by adjusting the distribution of work and making minor changes to pre-and post-processing.

DELMIA QUEST for fast start up of overseas plants

When launching its Czech Republic plant in 2003, Daikin Industries needed to have production lines up and running in an extremely short timeframe. With limited examination time, a simulation in DELMIA QUEST was carried out on the minimum required resources (testing units and workforce) pre-allocated to the testing zone. Equipment was ordered on this basis.

"Using simulation to identify the essential resources for a process reduces design time of the model," said Mr. Komada. "By removing unnecessary resources virtually, we discovered that the simplified model was sufficient."

For the company's new China facility, a presentation of the new plant's appearance was made to management using 3D animation. "Thanks to DELMIA QUEST, we were able to show management what the plant would look like using 3D animation. This was a significant benefit."

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