

INFAC

Improving collaboration by 25% with CATIA and ENOVIA SmarTeam



Overview

■ Challenge

INFAC needed to optimize the introduction and management of electronic components in its design centers worldwide to better meet the requirements of its automotive OEM customers.

■ Solution

INFAC chose ENOVIA SmarTeam for its exceptionally flexible data model, low cost of ownership, ease of use and implementation, and adaptability in a multi-site organization.

■ Benefits

After only one month, improved collaboration via ENOVIA SmarTeam has enabled INFAC to communicate engineering changes across its dispersed factories 25% faster.



"Perhaps the most important benefit we have derived from ENOVIA SmarTeam so far is a 25% reduction in the time needed to communicate engineering changes around the world. Collaboration has become very easy and efficient."

Young-Dae Kwon
R&D and Design Team Manager
INFAC

INFAC Corporation

Aim to become global leader in automotive parts manufacturing

Founded in 1969, South Korea-based INFAC develops more than 60 kinds of automotive parts, including valves, switches, nozzles, and antennae. Working closely with major domestic and global automotive manufacturers including Hyundai, Kia, General Motors, Chrysler, Mazda Motors, Isuzu, Honda, and Mitsubishi Motors, it aims to become a global leader in the automotive parts manufacturing sector. With annual business growth of 20% for the past five years, INFAC's revenue has increased three-fold in the same period to 190 billion won (US\$144 million) in 2008. In the light of its rapid growth and increase in market demand for its products, INFAC had to quickly establish a global network of plants in China, India and the US, to supplement its factories in Korea.

Global focus requires up-to-date data sharing

INFAC needed to optimize its process of introducing and managing electronic components in all design centers worldwide. In the highly competitive

automotive electronic products market, component selection plays a major role in determining which company offers the best prices. However, as INFAC's business grows, selecting the right component becomes counter-productive if it causes costly delays in delivery due to lack of synchronization of new product information across the company's worldwide network. To meet customer expectations, INFAC factories in the four countries needed concurrent access to the latest product information.

"Leading vehicle manufacturers are becoming global. INFAC's worldwide focus is one of our greatest strengths as a supplier, but it also presents major challenges. To be even more competitive in our market, we need to rapidly distribute product design information and engineering changes simultaneously to several manufacturing centers worldwide. To achieve this objective, we chose ENOVIA SmarTeam. The result has been very satisfactory," said Young-Dae Kwon, Research & Development and Design Team Manager of INFAC.



ENOVIA SmarTeam enables advanced collaboration

INFAC selected ENOVIA SmarTeam Collaborative Product Data Management solutions from Dassault Systèmes because of its exceptionally flexible data model, low cost of ownership, ease of use and implementation, and adaptability in a multi-site organization.

“ENOVIA SmarTeam enables us to share critical data, including product development and engineering changes, across dispersed factories. Perhaps the most important benefit we have derived from ENOVIA SmarTeam so far is a 25% reduction in the time needed to communicate engineering changes around the world. Even very frequent modifications can be updated and shared globally among users in real-time. Collaboration has become very easy and efficient,” said Kwon.

ENOVIA SmarTeam provides INFAC with instant notification of changes and keeps all users updated on project status throughout their implementation. In addition to design data management, INFAC can now better manage, plan and control its entire product development process.

Quick and easy implementation in just one month

It took INFAC just one month to implement ENOVIA SmarTeam. Realizing that user acceptance was crucial, INFAC initially

concentrated on integrating ENOVIA SmarTeam with its existing system running CATIA, Dassault Systèmes’ leading solution for product design and innovation. This made it even easier to accept the solution as it was rolled out, in carefully planned steps, to Korea, China, India, and the US. The results were very encouraging.

“Our users found ENOVIA SmarTeam very easy to use. Only minimal effort was required to get them up and running,” said Kwon. “With the new system, our users are guided through tasks and can concentrate on their primary mission – designing and engineering leading-edge automotive parts.”

To encourage widespread user acceptance of the new PLM system, INFAC provided users with in-depth training.

Bright future

INFAC’s future plans include further investment in PLM technology to expand its PLM solution across the enterprise so as to better meet rapidly changing customer needs. “We view PLM a strategic enabler. We’ll continue to grow our use of CATIA and ENOVIA SmarTeam to improve our responsiveness to customers and hence strengthen our competitive advantage,” said Kwon.

“INFAC’s global focus is one of our greatest strengths as a supplier, but it also presents major challenges. To be even more competitive in our market, we need to rapidly distribute product design information and engineering changes simultaneously to several manufacturing centers worldwide. ENOVIA SmarTeam enables us to do this.”

Young-Dae Kwon
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