Managing a Multitude of Variants with ENOVIA SmarTeam

NIMAK GmbH can build hundreds of variants of one single type of machine, including special purpose machinery and equipment CATIA V5 and ENOVIA SmarTeam help to manage the data volumes.

TEAMWORK IS SUPPORTED

ENOVIA SmarTeam offers the user tangible benefits for teamwork. Once set up in ENOVIA SmarTeam by the PartManager, all data are up-to-date and are available for any participant. Change management is intrinsically safer as it is handled automatically via ENOVIA SmarTeam. Errors caused by manual changes do not occur today. Andreas Kipp emphasizes: “The benefits of ENOVIA SmarTeam are particularly evident, however, in the configuration and construction of special purpose machines.” Components can be reused much more easily from series production or from special solutions that have already been developed. He considers a further positive effect to be teamwork. The current data for a given project is now available to every participant at any time. And “through the work with CATIA V5 in connection with ENOVIA SmarTeam, a standardized procedure is created for all design engineers.”

POTENTIAL FOR CROSS-DISCIPLINARY DATA FLOWS

The project to introduce CATIA V5 and ENOVIA SmarTeam in NIMAK is not yet over, and the integration of the two systems still requires some effort. Andreas Kipp: “One should not underestimate the adaptation work that is needed.” Yet, benefits such as efficient product data management for the many different types of machines and equipment or the consistent work across the team are already visible. Moreover, other potential is coming to the fore: on the basis of the parts list generated by ENOVIA SmarTeam, the new construction data can be uploaded back into the ERP system in the future as the existing parts list has already been integrated fully in ENOVIA SmarTeam. In addition, plans are afoot to be able to view the planning process and the purchase-related data over a web server and for design engineers to use this for their own work. So, the data worlds of NIMAK GmbH can grow together more and more, not only from one plant to another in terms of construction, but also across disciplines in the whole company.

MULTITUDE OF VARIANTS: A REAL CHALLENGE

In effect, the multitude of variants is a central topic for the welding equipment manufacturer. Thus, equipment and machinery for different welding types are developed which each require different machine types and welding guns. The machines are often built for a specific welding function in series production. The manufacturer operates in all the industries in which modules need to be joined, but particularly in the automobile industry and for nearly all its OEMs and their suppliers. Each welding job is discussed with the customer and the appropriate welding arm, machine or welding line is configured. In series production alone there exists huge variation. So, for example, a machine type can be equipped with four different transformers and can operate with frequency or alternating current technology.

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