

Olympic Tools Hellas

Takes off with CATIA PLM Express



Overview

■ Challenge

Olympic Tools Hellas needed an all-in-one solution for tooling design and to manage large quantities of data and documentation

■ Solution

The company migrated from CATIA V4 to CATIA PLM Express for all of its tooling design needs

■ Benefits

Olympic Tools Hellas streamlined its development processes, reduced costs, and secured its position as a significant supplier for the aerospace and defense industries



“A company the size of Olympic Tools Hellas is considered a serious player in an industry known for the size of its major aerospace manufacturers. One of our biggest assets is the fact that we use CATIA PLM Express, and this is impressive on our résumé.”

Kostas Syngounis, Commercial Director,
Olympic Tools Hellas



More than 25 years of aerospace component production

Olympic Tools Hellas, located near Athens, Greece is a privately owned company of 49 employees. Founded in 1981, Olympic Tool Hellas manufactures and assembles high precision metallic parts and structures, as well as assembles, tests, and maintains sophisticated electronic and electro-optic systems for defense and commercial applications in the aerospace industry. Among its customers in the defense industry are Raytheon, Dassault Aviation, Alenia and SAGEM, and in the civil aircraft industry, Airbus and Boeing.

The move to CATIA PLM Express

Since most of Olympic Tools Hellas' customers are aerospace OEMs and CATIA is the aerospace industry standard, the company implemented CATIA V4 at its inception. At that time, Olympic Tools Hellas was ahead of its competitors in Greece because it was the only privately owned company using CATIA.

In 2006, Olympic Tools Hellas migrated from CATIA V4 to CATIA PLM Express for its design

and data management needs, and to benefit from a more integrated product development process. With just a little over three weeks of training, seven Olympic Tools Hellas engineers from the Methods office were up and running on CATIA PLM Express.

An all-in-one solution

The trend at Olympic Tools Hellas is to phase out niche, independent solutions and focus its investments on an integrated design and data management solution such as CATIA PLM Express. “This is something that our customers ask for and we’re convinced will help us reduce our overall lead time and improve collaboration,” says Kostas Syngounis, Commercial Director, Olympic Tools Hellas. By the end of the year, the company will complete its NC Solution by adding post processors for its NC machines.

Engineers are impressed with CATIA PLM Express' user friendly interface, intuitiveness, and powerful design capabilities. “Our designers felt comfortable very quickly and as a result, have been able to shorten their development time,” said Syngounis.



Users also like the fact that they can control production safety by first performing visual controls on screen directly in CATIA. And although some CATIA V4 users were at first skeptical that they would not be able to recover all their data, their fears were unfounded since data migration went smoothly.

Tooling designed with CATIA

Olympic Tools Hellas engineers receive 3D models of parts designed in CATIA from the OEM customer. They then design the tooling that will be needed to produce the part. "The most important step in our design process is to create all the adequate tooling to create the first reference part," says Nikitas Chasoglou, Production Manager, Olympic Tools Hellas. "This can be a trial and error process, which if applied on the physical part itself, would cost us a lot of time and money. Since the tooling is designed in CATIA, associativity throughout the design-to-manufacturing process makes it easy for us to make adjustments virtually until we obtain the correct design." The engineers then develop the methodology and technical documentation for the production of the first part and the subsequent series production.

CATIA helps avoid production errors thanks to the way revisions are monitored in the software. "Whether changes are made by the customer or by us, it's a very safe way to control each revision and reduce errors like sending the wrong version of a model for production," says Chasoglou. And when designers receive feedback from production and need to make changes to the design, the

speed at which they can make these changes is a big plus. "The way CATIA handles versioning helps reduce production errors to almost zero. And with ENOVIA SmarTeam, we will further improve the management of our product data," says Chasoglou.

Documentation management – a short-term objective

Olympic Tools Hellas plans to deploy ENOVIA SmarTeam to manage all its product-related information including designs, product data, and documentation. "If we were to include all the revisions that we make to our models on a daily basis, it would be impossible to manage all this information with a simple file system," says Chasoglou. "We will create rules on who can access the system and who can make modifications, and all this will be managed by ENOVIA SmarTeam. And of course, ISO certification requires us to manage our workflow and processes and with ENOVIA SmarTeam we will be ISO-compliant," he adds.

Playing in the big leagues

For Olympic Tools Hellas, it is clear that using CATIA PLM Express is a convincing marketing argument that plays well with its customers and prospects. "A company the size of Olympic Tools Hellas is considered a serious player in an industry known for the size of its major aerospace manufacturers. One of our biggest assets is the fact that we use CATIA PLM Express, and this is impressive on our résumé," says Syngounis.



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**Nikitas Chasoglou, Production Manager,
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