

Cyco Software Customer Profile

Customer Profile:

Agri-Fab
Leading US manufacturer of lawn and garden equipment

Industry:

Manufacturing

Cyco Solution:

Cyco AutoManager® Meridian

Application Environment:

SoftBrands evolution ERP system, Autodesk Inventor®

Key Benefits:

- Seamless integration with ERP and CAD systems
- Easy adoption by end users
- Reduction or elimination of paper-based workflows resulting in increased speed, accuracy and efficiency

Efficient And Flexible Document Management Sows The Seeds For Growth Across Departments

"We've seen a definite positive impact on our workflow processes with AutoManager Meridian. From both IT and management perspectives, we see many opportunities to capitalize on its benefits. Its ease of use and flexibility to work with other applications have been huge pluses and in addition to AP, we're planning on rolling it out to other departments, such as AR, Sales and HR." – Kurtis Bunfill, IT Manager, Agri-Fab.

Business Overview

A division of Agri-Fab Holding Company, Agri-Fab® designs and manufactures the widest array of lawn and garden attachments in the industry. With almost 30 years of manufacturing experience, Agri-Fab's reputation for producing superior, high-quality equipment has resulted in a loyal customer base that includes all the major home and garden retailers in the US. American owned and operated, Agri-Fab is based in Sullivan, Illinois.

Situation Analysis

From a complete range of garden carts to sprayers, tillers and vac systems, Agri-Fab subjects its vast catalog of lawn and garden equipment to rigorous product testing to guarantee dependability and accurate performance. As a design-to-order manufacturer, its continued success is reliant on maintaining the highest standards of quality and accuracy while keeping costs low and turnaround high. Market conditions are increasingly challenging, with growing competition from low-cost, offshore firms. Agri-Fab needed to ensure it maximized every opportunity for efficiency, cost-effectiveness and speed to market.

Agri-Fab identified a need for an engineering document management (EDM) system to help collect, consolidate and manage engineering drawings scattered across the network. The mass of paper threatened to overrun storage capacities and locating the latest drawings could be both time-consuming and frustrating. The company also sought software to assist in ISO documents.

After much evaluation, Agri-Fab selected two complementary software solutions – one for its document management functionality, the other to meet ISO requirements. To Agri-Fab's dismay, the document management software vendor went out of business right after the order was placed.

Enter Cyco Software. "If we had known about AutoManager Meridian from the beginning, there would have been no question," said Kurtis Bunfill, Agri-Fab IT Manager. "Not only is Cyco Software a strong, global company, AutoManager Meridian answered all of our needs in one package. Along with offering a comprehensive document management solution, it also eliminated the need for separate software to cover our ISO requirements."

Cyco Solution

Providing seamless integration with Agri-Fab's existing ERP system and its CAD software, Autodesk Inventor, AutoManager Meridian has proven to be a valuable – and virtually invisible – addition to Agri-Fab's technology arsenal. Bringing together all the engineering drawings into one location, engineers, quality assurance personnel and shop supervisors now have easy access to the latest designs, contributing to both time savings and improved accuracy.

“With AutoManager Meridian, we’ve eliminated any issues with locating drawings and ensuring that they’re the latest revisions,” said Bunfill. “Now, there’s only one version of a drawing, which includes a complete revision history, and everyone can access it right from their own PC. And because AutoManager Meridian integrated transparently into our ERP software, there’s been no need for any user training. People accessing AutoManager Meridian don’t even realize they’re using a document management system. So not only has it saved time and improved workflow for the users, from an IT maintenance standpoint, there’s been virtually no work at all.”

AutoManager Meridian’s transparent fit with Autodesk Inventor also helped ensure a smooth transition and higher levels of day-to-day efficiency. With its specialized 3D document management capabilities, AutoManager Meridian increased both flexibility and ease of use through collaboration tools that manage and resolve references, enhanced change management processes with advanced “derive” and “replace” features, and superior security and information-sharing functionalities that reduce potential design/manufacturing errors.

With the success of its implementation for the engineering group, Agri-Fab rolled out AutoManager Meridian to the Accounts Payable department as well. With a custom front-end developed by Cyco Software partner Hagerman & Company, the AP process has been dramatically improved, cutting a process that formerly took up to several days down to literally minutes.

“We’ve seen a definite positive impact on our workflow processes with AutoManager Meridian,” Bunfill attested. “From both IT and management perspectives, we see many opportunities to capitalize on its benefits. Its ease of use and flexibility to work with other applications have been huge pluses and in addition to AP, we’re planning on rolling it out to other departments, such as AR, Sales and HR. People are often resistant to change and the idea that electronic document management will be an improvement is generally met with skepticism. But once they see how it works, they’re convinced!”

Business Benefits

- Seamless integration with ERP system for superior ease of use and BOM maintenance
- No user learning curve for easy user adoption
- Efficient document management for improved accuracy and time savings
- Proven stability and robustness for minimal IT maintenance
- Flexibility enables software to be leveraged for other applications and departments
- Improved workflow processes for enhanced internal communications