

Best-In-Class Product Development with Cyco AutoManager® Meridian and SolidWorks



"The relationship between Cyco AutoManager Meridian and SolidWorks has allowed us to become best in class in product development at IDEX Corporation" - Ken Kaufhold, Fluid Management

Business Overview

Fluid Management, Inc., a unit of IDEX Corporation, is the worldwide leading manufacturer of mixing and tinting equipment of the paint, coatings, and ink industries. Fluid Management, located in Wheeling, Illinois, also provides specialized equipment and engineered systems to other industries, such as food, chemicals, and cosmetics.

Most people will know Fluid Management's products from their favorite home improvement retailers, such as Home Depot and Loews, that use their machines for tinting and mixing paints in their stores.

Situation Analysis

Fluid Management develops and manufactures both standard and custom-built machines for their customers. In 2002, the company decided to upgrade to 3D solid modeling from their 2D design with AutoCAD.

Initially, the company chose Inventor as its system of choice, but eventually decided to move to SolidWorks instead. "When we moved to solid modeling we went to Inventor first, became dissatisfied, and then moved on to SolidWorks," said Ken Kaufhold, Fluid Management's Engineering Manager.

When the company decided to acquire SolidWorks, Kaufhold understood that the change from 2D to 3D could not be implemented successfully without a powerful new Engineering Data Management system.

Fluid Management outlined some clear specifications for the new system. It was crucial to implement a data management solution that would be able to handle the new complex assemblies, provided powerful revision control and could provide each engineer fast access to all vital drawing information.

Fluid Management chose to purchase Cyco AutoManager Meridian from Atlanta-based vendor Cyco Software. Hagerman and Company, a long-standing Cyco Software reseller, provided the implementation services and training for the product.

Cyco Software Solution

A key aspect of Cyco AutoManager Meridian was its ability to manage multiple file extensions, including AutoCAD and SolidWorks. "We have been using document management for some time," said Kaufhold. "We previously used Cyco AutoManager WorkFlow with AutoCAD, and when we moved to solid modeling with SolidWorks and Inventor, we upgraded to Cyco AutoManager Meridian in order to have support for all our drawings."

In fact, Cyco AutoManager Meridian allows Fluid Management to control entire engineering projects, including CAD documents and related data. "We also manage Word documents, specifications and part number information in the system," said Kaufhold.

Customer Profile

Fluid Management
Manufacturer of mixing and tinting equipment

Industry

Manufacturing

Cyco Software Solution

Cyco AutoManager® Meridian

Application Environment

Autodesk AutoCAD, Inventor & SolidWorks

Key Benefits

- Manage multiple file extensions
- Control entire engineering projects
- Interdepartmental collaboration
- Ease of use
- Manage complex 3D assemblies



The scalability of Cyco AutoManager Meridian and its integration with custom applications like AutoPLOT (from Hagerman & Company) has allowed Kaufhold's design team to share product development documents with other parts of the organization. "The implementation of Cyco AutoManager Meridian is company-wide," said Kaufhold. "Production is able to get all the drawings from Cyco AutoManager Meridian and the software also enables the factory floor to view all the drawings in the system."

"In the future we want to go to a paperless engineering change process with automatic email notification," Kaufhold added.

Fluid Management also looked at implementing SmarTeam as their data management system. After comprehensive evaluation, the company decided that Cyco AutoManager Meridian was a better choice for the company. "We were concerned that SmarTeam would be too complex and needed a full-time administrator," said Kaufhold. "Cyco AutoManager Meridian was an easy pick and easy to implement."

"The greatest advantage is that we're able to manage complex 3D assemblies with Cyco AutoManager Meridian," said Kaufhold. "For that reason, we did not move to SolidWorks until we had Cyco AutoManager Meridian in place. The product has enabled us to maintain high productivity levels during the transition to 3D."

Kaufhold and his team are "very happy" with the integration between Cyco AutoManager Meridian and SolidWorks. "The relationship between Cyco AutoManager Meridian and SolidWorks has allowed us to become best in class in product development at IDEX Corporation," concluded Kaufhold.



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