

QubicaAMF

QubicaAMF improves its game with ENOVIA SmarTeam



Overview



■ Challenge

QubicaAMF, formerly AMF Bowling, often designed new parts rather than reusing old ones because its method of organizing design records was cumbersome.

■ Solution

QubicaAMF chose ENOVIA SmarTeam for its ability to manage the company's design data and engineering change orders and to grow with its needs.

■ Benefits

Designers save countless hours searching for existing parts or redesigning ones they can't find, helping the company introduce new products more quickly.

"ENOVIA SmarTeam's associative BOM automatically pulls all of the part numbers and descriptions from a 3D assembly, eliminating the mistakes that used to happen when we had to do that manually."

Brian Williamson, CAD-PDM Administrator, Design Engineer, QubicaAMF Worldwide

ENOVIA SmarTeam helps make engineering magic

Generations of children have stood in wonder on their first trip to a bowling center, mesmerized by the smooth motion of the automatic pinspotters and the sight of brightly colored balls spinning up the ball return.

The technology that makes a bowling alley operate isn't magic – it just seems that way. Behind the scenes QubicaAMF (formerly AMF Bowling) engineers a complex and carefully timed dance of moving parts to be both rugged and precise.

QubicaAMF designs and fabricates most of the parts it uses and assembles everything from the ball returns to the laminates for the bowling lanes. The pinspotter, for example, includes more than 3,800 different parts, all of which must be engineered to work smoothly together.

Managing such complexity isn't easy, as Brian Williamson, CAD-PDM Administrator and Design Engineer with QubicaAMF Worldwide, will be the first to admit. "When I got here four years ago, I think I spent more time trying to locate the designs for the parts in our machines than I did designing new ones," he says. "CAD files on the network were difficult to locate and reuse."

Organization eliminates wasted time, redesign

Lack of organization was costing the company valuable time that could have been better spent on designing new and more sophisticated machinery for QubicaAMF's customers. Addressing the file management challenges also would help the company be better prepared for each year's meeting of the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, the industry's largest trade show.



“Everybody in the bowling industry is there,” Williamson said. “If you miss that show, it hurts. There are other shows, but that’s the one you want to be ready for if you can.”

To improve organization and reduce the time spent searching for data, QubicaAMF turned to ENOVIA SmarTeam, a product data management solution from Dassault Systèmes. With ENOVIA SmarTeam, QubicaAMF can find every part design in seconds, saving valuable time and allowing new products to be innovated on top of existing ones.

“We have a very simple installation, but it does exactly what we need it to do,” Williamson said. “The search function is very powerful, and we can search on the part description, the part number, or the ECO (engineering change order). We’ve eliminated all the time we used to waste searching for parts or designing new parts from scratch because we couldn’t find the designs for the old ones.”

ENOVIA SmarTeam integrates seamlessly with QubicaAMF’s CAD software, allowing users to access ENOVIA SmarTeam functions without leaving their work environment. Check-in and check-out functions allow multiple users to work on the same

design in tandem. ENOVIA SmarTeam also helps QubicaAMF automatically compile bills of material (BOMs) directly from its 3D assemblies.

“Before we implemented ENOVIA SmarTeam, we typed all of the part numbers and descriptions for each assembly into a spreadsheet, but that’s such a manual process it created a lot of errors,” Williamson said. “Now with ENOVIA SmarTeam, our BOMs are 100 percent accurate.”

Better cycle times for a better bottom line

In time, Williamson hopes to expand QubicaAMF’s implementation to take advantage of other ENOVIA SmarTeam capabilities. For example, workflow to automatically manage change order signoffs could cut days out of the design cycle. He also would like to give Manufacturing access to ENOVIA SmarTeam, allowing workers to see complex assemblies in 3D rather than working from a printout that may be out of date.

“The more lag time we can cut, the easier it will be to hit our target dates,” Williamson said. “We help our bottom line when we get new products out on time, and ENOVIA SmarTeam helps us do that.”

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