

Greg Walker, Technical Manager at Seamap talks to CSI about their investment in DDM

Why did you decide to invest in a data management solution?

Control and speed of access to engineering data. Initially, control and release of Pro/ENGINEER® data was the real benefit – the legacy data from our previous CAD package meant a lot of wasted time searching the file structure. One unexpected saving is the time needed to create and store a master PDF version of each drawing for company wide and supplier distribution – DDM’s automatic PDF creator has benefited us immediately.

What kind of data management solution were you looking for?

We required a data management system that integrated fully with Pro/Engineer. After previously being involved with Pro/Intralink® and Windchill® installations, we felt that we needed a more streamlined product that was focused on the engineering requirements of an SME. DDM has delivered – proving that cost effective data management software that is simple to use is of real benefit to smaller companies.

How did DDM fit with your requirements?

It is still early days in our integration of both Pro/Engineer and DDM, but initial feeling is very positive and that the time to market of the first product to be fully designed on Pro/Engineer and controlled by DDM was better than we would have previously achieved.

Were there any specific aspects of the DDM product range that you found essential to your enterprise?

We’ve tried working with CAD systems without a data management solution and at times the situation has become unacceptable – re-work due to data loss, excessive searching for files, file naming conventions not being followed, etc. all affecting the development timescales and the cost of engineering design. Now that DDM is integrated into the Pro/Engineer CAD users’ working practices we won’t be going back – in fact, we are expanding the use of the system further into our electrical department to control their CAD data, and are also investigating the use of DDM Office to control all the engineering output.

How did DDM’s ‘Out of the box’ functionality compare with ‘high-end’ product currently on the market?

CSI staff obviously care about their solution – they are responsive and knowledgeable. All enquiries were handled rapidly – and we haven’t needed any support recently as the system just continues to work. As we have grown more comfortable with the system, we now want DDM to do more for us – and CSI are always willing to incorporate the “special requests” where possible – we are looking forward to the next enhancement to include a couple of our requirements. We don’t know of other software suppliers that are as quick to react or as willing to re-write their code to satisfy specific needs of their clients.

About Seamap:

For nearly 20 years, SEAMAP has been pioneering the design and development of products for seismic, Hydrographic and offshore industries with product sales and support bases located in Houston, Singapore and the United Kingdom. www.seamap.com

