

Case Study - Bill Nitz

1. What benefits has DesignDataManager brought to your organisation?

DDM has provided us with a cost effective means to control all of our Engineering related documentation. We are using DDM for revision control on our 3D data files (which includes both Pro/ENGINEER and SolidWorks formats), specifications, bills of materials, test data, etc. As we discover more of the capabilities of the DDM system we are looking at how to expand usage into other functional areas with the company. This allows for better collaboration between all groups working on a specific project using one set of data. Using a single set of data reduces the possibility for errors that can be a result of using data that may be out of date.



2. What influenced your choice to choose DesignDataManager over alternative PDM systems?

We were looking for a cost effective solution for revision control on our 3D data files at the beginning. The system needed to work with both Pro/ENGINEER and SolidWorks systems as both are in use at our company. We also needed a PDM system that was user friendly, could be fitted to our file management systems as we have slight variations for the different product groups within our organization, and did not require significant administrative overhead once implemented. The DDM system has been an easy to use system that can be easily adapted to the requirements of the different product groups. The adaptability factor was important because we were not constrained to working the way the software required, as is the case with other systems, but allowed us to implement a system that could be adapted to our processes. This means that each group can continue working as they have with minimal changes to accommodate a PDM system. One of the last factors influencing my decision was the fact that DDM is a database system and not just a file management system as is the case with some of the other bundled data management systems.

3. Has DesignDataManager directly influenced decreased development timescales at your company?

It is still a bit early in our implementation of the DDM system to be able to say that we have decreased development time as a result of DDM, but I am confident that once the system is fully implemented we should see shorter development times as a result of more control and better access to data for groups outside of the Engineering group within the design/development process that can be attributed to the document management system.

4. Please make any additional comments that you feel appropriate regarding DesignDataManager or of the CSI organisation/people.

I would recommend the DDM software to those looking for a user friendly, simple to implement, cost effective document management system. I have also found the people at CSI and Drew Engineering to be very responsive to our queries, and available to help implement the system along the way. The staff is very knowledgeable on the product and can translate that knowledge to help the wide variety of people within our organisation who will be working with the product.

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