

COMPANY

Anonymous

LOCATION

UK

SOFTWARE

Autodesk Product Design and Manufacturing Collection

Autodesk Vault Professional

Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle

Streamlining data and product lifecycle management



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How standardising on Autodesk software transformed the design and engineering workflow for one energy sector business

For most bespoke solutions providers working in the offshore energy sector, it is important to put in place end-to-end processes and workflows that cover data management and design and engineering and deliver operational efficiency and business agility. For one such provider, these were the key drivers behind a decision to migrate their whole approach in this area to one based on Autodesk software solutions and supported by Autodesk reseller, Cadline.

The provider had previously relied on a single legacy data management system, based on aging technology with little provision for wider process management. It decided to migrate to a fully integrated data management and process lifecycle management (PLM) system robust and resilient enough to manage its working processes but agile enough to support rapid changes in response to shifting business requirements. It went out to market and ran a thorough review of available software solutions. Having examined these solutions, the bespoke solutions provider decided to opt for the Autodesk Product Design and Manufacturing Collection, including a combination of Autodesk Vault Professional product data management (PDM) software and Autodesk's Fusion Lifecycle cloud-based lifecycle management software solution.

There were multiple reasons for this choice. The provider had a long history with Autodesk software, most notably, the design and modelling tool, Autodesk Inventor, which it has been using for around 20 years. By standardising on Autodesk solutions across design, PDM and product lifecycle management (PLM), it knew that it could achieve enhanced operational efficiency and productivity from improved integration and interoperability. It also understood the flexibility and agility that Fusion Lifecycle, in particular would be able to provide.

As a spokesperson from the provider outlined: "Fusion Lifecycle supports a fluid approach to lifecycle management. It is functionally rich and versatile, but it is also flexible enough to adapt as your business needs flex and change over time. The tight integration with Vault, which we use as an engineering data repository for office documents, means that you can build and customise process workflows while all the time continuing to draw from the data stored in Vault."

The bespoke solutions provider's relationship with Autodesk reseller and platinum partner, Cadline has also been key in implementing and in supporting the software solutions. The provider has a support contract with Cadline, through which Cadline delivers customer service, logs support calls and delivers day to day support. As the provider's spokesperson highlighted: "From the start of our relationship, we have been impressed with the professionalism and dedication of Cadline. Its expertise with Autodesk has been invaluable from the outset as has the efficient manner in which it runs and manages

projects and has dealt with support requests, queries and concerns."



Scoping out the solution

The bespoke provider has bought multiple licences of both Autodesk Vault and Fusion Lifecycle. It has also rolled out and implemented the software solutions and accessed the professional services offered by Cadline in support.

The provider is now pushing the boundaries of what it is possible to achieve with the two software solutions operating in tandem. Organisations frequently use Vault to manage work in progress and engineering data and then push the bill of materials 'down the line' into the Fusion Lifecycle tool. The provider does all this but also goes further by generating drawing registers and developing and managing project standards.

Paul Watson, Head of Digital Manufacturing, Cadline, said: "They are looking to manage all their design and engineering work and all related processes inside Vault. And they have also built task management for every single engineer into the system as well."

Cadline is increasingly going beyond day-to-day support to deliver special projects designed to improve the system further, including providing improvements to certain areas of the system.



Moving forwards, the provider plans to do more development work of its own on its Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle implementation but it remains confident that Cadline will be there to provide help on the most complex elements, as well as continuing to deliver ongoing support and consultancy long into the future.

Reaping the rewards

The bespoke solutions provider is now on a unified Autodesk platform managed and maintained by Cadline. The focus is not on introducing radical change but instead on refining the approach and adapting the system to deliver efficiency gains. The provider is now calling Cadline to deliver specific projects designed to further enhance the solution in certain key areas.

As of today, the key benefit that the Autodesk product portfolio delivers to the provider on this project is how the seamless integration of all the key solutions helps drive operational efficiency. According to the provider's spokesperson: "For us, the main benefit of using Inventor, Vault and Lifecycle together is the smooth workflow it supports. When you are designing in Inventor, all the metadata effectively flows into Vault and can then flow on into Fusion."

"It is easy to design, store work and then check and approve it. We can visualise work, ensure data quality and ensure rigorous engineering process is embedded into the design tasks and the entire product lifecycle. "

Cadline is still playing an active role in advising the bespoke solutions provider of the upcoming product roadmap and in developing customisations to the software as and when required to ensure its customer maximises the benefits it can attain from the solution. Cadline has also acted as a bridge from the provider to Autodesk on occasion to keep channels of communication open and facilitate direct communication about a specific feature or the future evolution of a particular product.