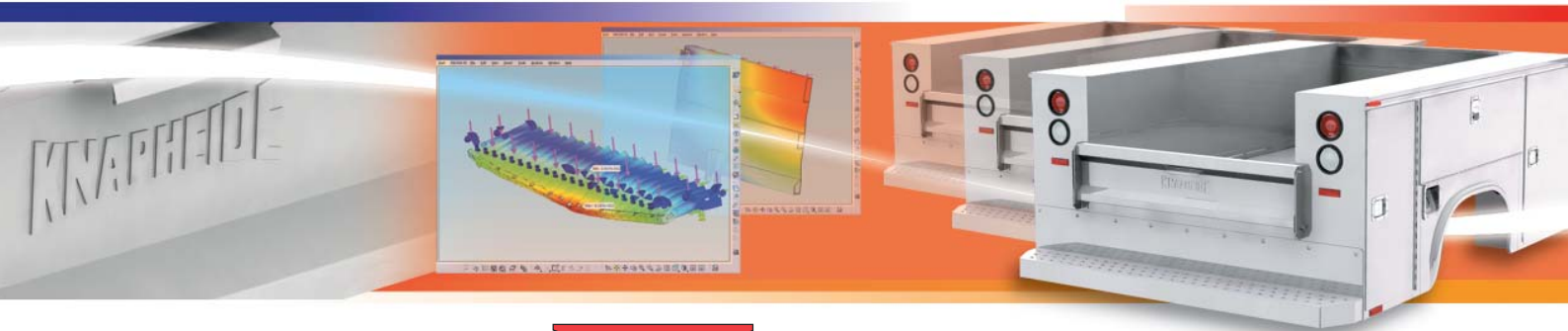


Knapheide

Increases productivity and efficiency with ENOVIA SmarTeam



Overview



■ Challenge

To maintain its leadership position, Knapheide wanted to increase productivity and efficiency by automating its manual product development processes.

■ Solution

Knapheide chose ENOVIA SmarTeam to automate engineering change management and workflow processes and streamline development through improved access to design data.

■ Benefits

With ENOVIA SmarTeam, Knapheide has reduced standard Engineering Change Order processing time by 50%, improved quality and increased reuse of existing designs.

Keeping the lead

Knapheide, a leader in the design and manufacture of service truck bodies, operates in an industry where products are quickly copied by competitors, making speed of development critical to continued success.

“When you’re the leader, you’re also the target,” says Chris Weiss, Vice President of Engineering at Knapheide. “We’re looking to always be one step ahead in what we do as a company. Product development and how we engineer products is one part of getting that done.”

But Knapheide’s manual workflow management approaches did not meet the company’s need to streamline and gain efficiencies in its processes.

“We realized we needed some kind of flow process management,” says Larry Rudd, Project Manager for Knapheide’s PLM implementation. “Everything was paper-based and the routing of even an uncomplicated Engineering Change Order (ECO) would take two weeks.”

Achieving workflow and process control

Weiss says ENOVIA SmarTeam was appealing because it offered not just revision and workflow control, but also process control.

“Before, we were always trying to figure out where something was,” Rudd says. “It was very difficult to chase down an ECO and know what stage it was in.”

Now, Rudd says, the typical ECO takes just five days to process. “It’s much easier to track now,” he says. “At any instant, we can tell where any ECO is and it can be accessed by many different departments, including engineering, purchasing, marketing and inventory control. That’s been a big plus.”

As a manager, Rudd says, the solution provides him with instant notification of changes and keeps him updated on project status through implementation.



“With ENOVIA SmarTeam as an execution tool we have visibility as a management team to ensure we’re working on the highest priority projects first.”

Chris Weiss, Vice President of Engineering, Knapheide



Weiss says that in addition to product data management, they are now regularly managing project planning and control with the system as well.

“We used to have multiple project lists from each team that were difficult to organize and track,” he says.

“Now, we work an active engineering project list that gives us visibility as a management team on the status of all of our projects in one place. We use it as an execution tool to be sure we’re working the highest priority projects and getting them done.”

In addition, Weiss says the solution increases Knapheide’s ability to reuse existing, proven designs and prevent duplication.

“We have more than 230,000 production drawings,” Weiss says. “So, we’re really looking to this solution as a tool to try to capture and control that volume of data in a much better fashion. ENOVIA SmarTeam is now one of our core business systems.”

A bright future

In the future, Knapheide wants installation engineers at remote

facilities to be able to access data related to highly customized designs using ENOVIA SmarTeam. Eventually it hopes to employ the technology to collaborate with suppliers and partners.

Other future plans include using the solution to tie field feedback on ECOs to corrective action requests and to control design data and manufacturing documentation to create the company’s extensive catalog.

“We also see ENOVIA SmarTeam as a way of controlling the revisions, documentation and information as you go through the different stage gates of development – from marketing input through initial concept designs to, in some cases, supplier input. That’s got huge potential.”

Ultimately, Weiss says the solution can help Knapheide execute better and faster.

“In a fast changing environment the worst thing we could do as a market leader is to be slow and bureaucratic,” he says. “ENOVIA SmarTeam increases our productivity and efficiency as we do projects.”

“ENOVIA SmarTeam is now one of our core business systems.”

Chris Weiss, Vice President of Engineering, Knapheide



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