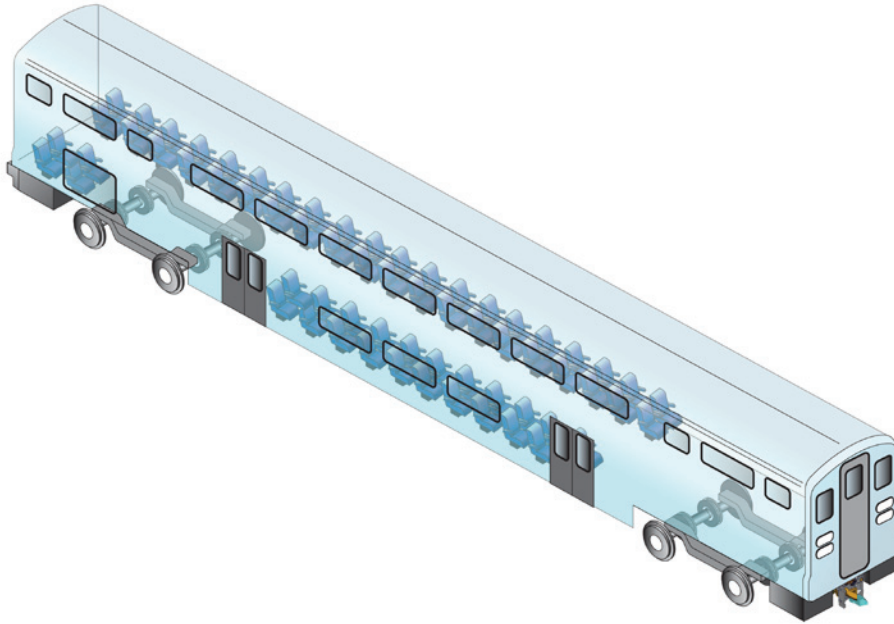


Wabtec Passenger Transit

SPEEDING PASSENGER TRAIN BRAKE AND COUPLER DESIGN WITH SOLIDWORKS



Using SolidWorks software, Wabtec has accelerated development of its coupler and braking systems for light-rail passenger trains.

CHALLENGE:

Confront rising design challenges related to time and cost by streamlining brake and coupler development and improving quality.

SOLUTION:

Implement the SolidWorks 3D development platform to leverage simulation tools to identify design issues and a single environment to manage design data.

RESULTS:

- Compressed development cycles
- Improved product quality
- Streamlined creation of product documentation
- Accelerated assembly operations

For Wabtec Passenger Transit, making the trains run on time requires the efficient development of safe, reliable braking equipment and coupler systems. A Wabtec company, Wabtec Passenger Transit designs and manufactures pneumatic, electronic, and mechanical devices, such as braking systems, controllers, current collectors, and couplers, for the worldwide transit industry. Subway trains around the globe use Wabtec systems.

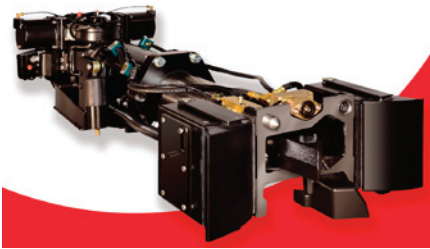
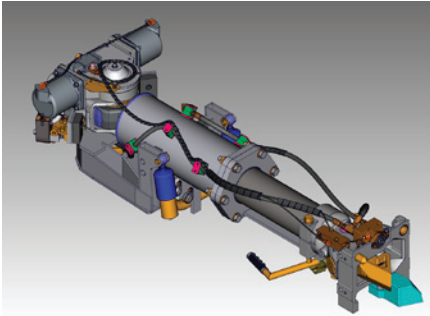
The company moved from its 2D MICROCADAM® CAD design tools to the Pro/ENGINEER® 3D CAD system several years ago to improve productivity, raise quality, and reduce costs. However, according to Gregory V. Scott, manager of drafting/document control, engineering services, Wabtec decided to reevaluate its choice of a 3D solution because of challenges related to user training and proficiency.

"We initially moved to 3D to improve the visualization of design layouts and more effectively utilize analysis," Scott recounts. "We discovered that we needed a tool that our engineers could set aside for a period of time and come back to without having to relearn the software. We wanted a 3D application that our people could navigate without having to go through lengthy, costly training."

After reassessing its initial 3D choice, the company approached replacement solutions with a greater degree of caution, deciding to try out a 3D CAD package a few seats at a time before making a larger investment. "We started out with nine seats of SolidWorks® software," Scott recalls. "It caught on very quickly because our engineers found they could become proficient with it much more easily. When we saw how quickly our designers accepted SolidWorks, we made the decision to standardize on SolidWorks as our preferred 3D solution."

“The integration of SolidWorks Simulation software is a big advantage for us. We have realized improvements in quality, and can attribute the extended wear we have designed into our systems to the greater number of stress analyses that we perform.”

Gregory V. Scott
Manager of Drafting/Document Control,
Engineering Services



Wabtec uses SolidWorks solutions at each step of its product development process, from conceptual design and simulation through documentation and assembly.

Wabtec standardized on SolidWorks software, installing 27 seats, because of its ease of use, large-assembly and design configurations capabilities, and integrated analysis and product data management (PDM) applications. The company has since added seats of SolidWorks Simulation Premium analysis and 3DVIA Composer product documentation software.

Driving large-assembly design

The development of Wabtec’s systems requires the design of large assemblies. Using SolidWorks, the company has improved its handling of large assemblies – and the better performance translates into shorter design cycles and fewer production issues. For example, Wabtec engineers use SolidWorks interference detection tools to resolve clearance issues and design configuration capabilities to create variations on a design in a more automated way.

“Although we create many custom designs, we also have systems that involve slight modifications, such as a left-hand and right-hand electric coupler, that share symmetrical features. The same goes for brakes: brakes on both sides – actuators are right-hand and left-hand sides,” Scott explains. “With SolidWorks design configuration capabilities, we can easily create these modified designs from what we have already designed, which saves a lot of time.”

Simulation puts quality back on track

Wabtec has long utilized analysis tools to meet the safety requirements associated with designing rail mass transit system components. Since implementing SolidWorks software, however, the company has realized additional product quality improvements from having greater access to and flexibility in using design simulation tools.

“The integration of SolidWorks Simulation software is a big advantage for us,” Scott stresses. “It allows us to use stress analysis and dynamics studies to really go after the performance of our coupler and braking systems. We have realized improvements in quality, and can attribute the extended wear we have designed into our systems to the greater number of stress analyses that we perform.”

Managing data and documentation

By combining SolidWorks mechanical design and SolidWorks Simulation software with the integrated SolidWorks Workgroup PDM and 3DVIA Composer product documentation systems, Wabtec has enjoyed additional productivity gains related to more streamlined system assembly and documentation creation operations. Improved data management, tighter revision control, and improved workflows accelerate assembly operations. In addition, the company plans to create some of its technical publications, such as training animations, directly from its solid models using 3DVIA Composer software.

“With SolidWorks, we have one product environment for managing all of our design data – from conceptual design and simulation through documentation (with 3DVIA Composer) and assembly,” Scott notes. “That’s the vision that we initially had when we moved to 3D. SolidWorks has helped us to make it a reality.”



Dassault Systèmes SolidWorks Corp.
300 Baker Avenue
Concord, MA 01742 USA
Phone: 1 800 693 9000
Outside the US: +1 978 371 5011
Email: info@solidworks.com
www.solidworks.com



Wabtec Passenger Transit
130 Ridgeview Center Drive
Duncan, SC 29334 USA
Phone: +1 864 433 5900
www.Wabtec.com
VAR: TPM Inc., Greenville,
South Carolina, USA