With SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM software, Anderson Dahlen has saved time, reduced errors, and increased throughput in the development of its stainless-steel processing equipment.
Challenge:
Achieve productivity gains in the fabrication of stainless-steel and specialty alloy equipment and systems for the food, beverage, dairy, and pharmaceutical industries, as well as other specialty stainless markets.

Solution:
Implement the SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM system to cut time and costs from production processes.

Results:
• Shortened design time by 10 to 15 percent
• Cut rework by 5 to 10 percent
• Reduced errors by 10 percent
• Increased throughput by 10 to 12 percent

“Almost everything we do involves sheet metal,” Trnka points out. “It’s a lot quicker and more efficient to develop complex sheet-metal flats when you’re always working with the formed component in SOLIDWORKS. With PDM, we’ve connected the design with our laser-cutting system, which automates the process of producing flat patterns and creating code used to cut the parts.”

“We prefer to reuse designs whenever possible to reduce our design times and costs. With SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM’s search capability, it’s easy to find an existing design, using an attribute like material, size, or function,” Trnka continues. “On average, a part search takes only about 1 to 2 seconds. Before we implemented PDM, we determined that our designers were spending an average of 40 minutes per day searching for parts. PDM capabilities—like search tools and automated workflows—help us reduce design time by 10 to 15 percent.”

FEWER ERRORS, LESS REWORK
With the automated workflows supported by SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM, Anderson Dahlen established important quality checks and controls, which contributed to the company’s ISO 9000 certification in manufacturing. Since implementing PDM, the company has reduced all types of errors—including machine, fabrication, CAD, and human errors—by 10 percent, resulting in a subsequent 5 to 10 percent reduction in rework.

“SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM plays a key role in our quality control system and helps us to continually develop ongoing improvements because the system manages all of our

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— Richard Trnka, CAD Systems Manager
development data,” Project Manager Jeff Liedman says. “Not only does this enhance product quality—such as having the proper file information embedded on all assemblies and parts—but it also ensures that required inspections and approvals take place.” SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM helps Anderson Dahlen manage other quality control systems required by ISO 9000 and insures that materials, inspections, non-conforming materials and documentation are accurate, filed, and communicated throughout the organization.

**IMPROVED PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE**

The positive impacts of the SOLIDWORKS Enterprise PDM implementation—faster development, automated workflows, and improved quality—have allowed Anderson Dahlen to increase fabrication throughput by 10 to 12 percent, providing the production-side performance gains that the company sought.

“With PDM, we are able to do more with our existing resources,” Liedman points out. “If we didn’t have PDM, I don’t think we’d be able to support our current throughput while maintaining quality control. PDM lets us produce systems quickly while making sure that they’re fabricated correctly.”

Focus on Anderson Dahlen Inc.

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