With SOLIDWORKS design, analysis, product data management, and technical communication solutions, OMEGA ELEVATOR successfully transitioned from a 2D to a 3D product development environment, compressing design cycles and accelerating time-to-market for its elevator products in the process.
OMEGA ELEVATOR, S.A., is a leading European elevator company, designing, manufacturing, installing, maintaining, and servicing hydraulic and electric elevators, and other vertical transport systems. Headquartered in Vitoria, Spain, the company has produced elevators for transporting people, as well as small and large cargo loads, for more than 25 years, and has installations on several continents. With its modern production plant and knowledgeable, experienced employees, OMEGA brings extensive technical expertise to the development of its elevator equipment, including elevators, platforms, escalators, and access ramps. Each prototype OMEGA designs is verified and checked in its own testing and trial tower, and adapted to each particular case and specific local regulations.

Until 2012, OMEGA utilized 2D tools to support its entire development and manufacturing process, from design concept to production. However, to consistently maximize its capacity to produce 4,000 complete elevators annually, the elevator manufacturer decided to transition to 3D technology to accelerate and streamline elevator design, validation, and production, according to Managing Director Javier Azurmendi.

After evaluating 3D design packages, OMEGA standardized on SOLIDWORKS® solutions, implementing SOLIDWORKS design, SOLIDWORKS Simulation analysis, SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional product data management, and SOLIDWORKS Composer technical communication software solutions. OMEGA also utilizes SOLIDWORKS Composer technical communication software to reuse 3D design data to quickly create or update technical drawings and associated product documentation.

**SHORTER DESIGN CYCLES, FASTER TIME-TO-MARKET**

Since implementing the SOLIDWORKS 3D development platform, OMEGA can make greater use of its design data, which accelerates processes, resulting in a 30 to 40 percent reduction in design cycles and much shorter time-to-market. “We can now go to market in a week, which was unthinkable before,” Azurmendi says.

Another notable improvement attributable to the SOLIDWORKS PDM system involves traceability. The system provides precise knowledge of specific components that were used in a particular design when it was sold. Easy search of and fast access to design data supports greater design reuse. “You had to look through many plans when searching before, but it is now as easy as searching with a browser,” Azurmendi notes. “The program makes it easy and saves time—you only need a few minutes to find the data you want.”

**REDUCING DEVELOPMENT COSTS**

The transition to SOLIDWORKS development solutions is also having a positive impact on OMEGA’s bottom line. The company indicates that its development costs have dropped by approximately 30 percent, much of those reductions related to time savings. Being able to reuse common elements from project to project—many of which use roughly 70 percent of the same components—allows for better resource utilization and greater throughput.

The responsiveness and efficiency of SOLIDWORKS design and simulation tools have enabled OMEGA to slash prototyping costs by between 50 and 60 percent. Before implementing SOLIDWORKS solutions, most of the prototypes that were manufactured in Omega’s shop ended up being thrown away...
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