

IMP Ltd. – CATIA Version 5 facilitates collaboration, saving time and improving response to customers



*"We are already expanding capacity to support the new expected level of business. CATIA Version 5 is a major tool in our expansion plans."
Andrew Simpson, Managing Director, IMP Ltd.*

Highlights

- *Manual processes for exchanging parts data and delivering product designs impeded IMP's business growth with automotive manufacturers*
- *CATIA Version 5 eliminates manual data collection and delivery, connecting IMP with its customers and suppliers, regardless of the computer aided design (CAD) system they utilise*
- *CATIA enhanced communication and collaboration with IMP's customers and suppliers, improving response times and boosting growth opportunities.*

Manual processes impede growth

IMP is a growing, UK-based, company providing expanded polyethylene foam packaging solutions to the automotive and aerospace industries. IMP products protect and organise delicate items on the manufacturing floor, minimising the risk of loss and damage. But manual processes for collecting part data and delivering designs hindered the growth IMP aimed to achieve in the automotive market.

Collecting the necessary data to design and develop repackaging pallets for use on automotive assembly lines meant visiting the customer site to physically measure the parts to be packed and then returning to deliver design samples throughout the development process. IMP knew these manual processes were slowing response time and impeding growth. "The CAD data for the component is available in electronic form and we knew we could eliminate unnecessary steps in the development process by utilising it directly," said Andrew Simpson, Managing Director of IMP.

CATIA Version 5 improves data exchange and collaboration

With its sights set on doubling its business with automotive manufacturers, IMP knew the time had come to leave its manual processes behind. CATIA Version 5, deployed in IMP's existing Microsoft™ Windows™ environment, was the answer to eliminating the bottlenecks in its development processes.



“CATIA is the system of choice for the majority of the automotive and aerospace industry,” said Simpson. “By using the CAD data inside CATIA, we are able to talk to our customers with a greater knowledge of their products.”

IBM Business Partner INCAT supplied IMP with training, support and advice for sharing with Tier 1 suppliers and automotive manufacturers. “CATIA is the standard for the automotive industry and makes it easy for our customers to communicate with us,” Simpson said. “And in time, it will become the platform for all data transfer throughout the manufacturing industry.”

Automated processes speed development time and enhance responsiveness

With CATIA Version 5, electronic CAD information comes in directly from IMP’s customers, eliminating data problems. This allows IMP to develop a repacking pallet solution that both fits the parts and accommodates the demands of the automotive assembly line in record time. Then the new design is transmitted back to the customer, short-cutting the traditional manual processes. “Close collaboration with our customers gives us a clear advantage over our competitors,” Simpson said.

IMP foresees benefits to using CATIA with its other customers, too. Using the multi-CAD translators available in CATIA, IMP will be able to share CAD data with all of its customers no matter what CAD system they utilise.

Planning for continued growth

IMP has big plans for the future growth of its business, and the automotive market is a key focus for the company. “We are market leaders in packaging technology,” said Simpson. “CATIA Version 5 will increase our automotive exposure and produce growth of 150–200 percent in our business.”

According to Simpson, being able to respond faster and making it easier for IMP’s customers to do business with it are important elements in the company’s growth plans. “We’re already expanding capacity to support the new expected level of business,” he said. “We are increasing our floor space by a third. We currently employ 25 people with two more joining immediately and additional staff in the future. CATIA Version 5 is a major tool in our expansion plans.”

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