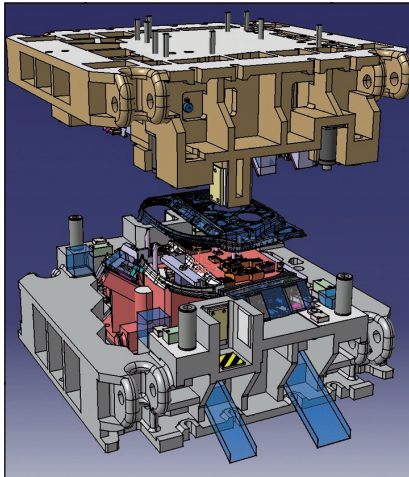


CATIA V5 cuts automotive die design time by up to 60 percent at Grupo Dover



"Based on our experience we are able to confirm that CATIA V5 is the most perfect and innovative system to be found on the market. It has the best performance and I honestly believe CATIA V5 is the jewel in the crown of contemporary CAD/CAM systems."
– Oscar Tobia, General Manager and co-founder, Grupo Dover Sistema de Troqueles

Dover wanted a full 3D system offering the ability to work with solids and surfaces as well as providing complete process coverage. In addition, it recognised its OEM customers were making the transition to CATIA V5 and that adopting it early could provide additional competitive advantage.

Highlights

- *The limitations of Dover's previous computer aided design (CAD) systems did not allow different departments to share the same CAD data, making problems and errors hard to detect and solve*
- *CATIA Version 5, with a full 3D system for solids and surfaces, as well as complete process coverage, was implemented with support from IBM Business Partner Gedas Iberia, s.a.*
- *Since converting to CATIA V5, Dover has reduced design time for stamping dies by up to 60 percent while eliminating errors and increasing quality.*

Design variations slow development

Grupo Dover Sistema de Troqueles is a leading producer of automotive stamping dies for European and South American OEMs including Volkswagen, Mercedes Benz, Seat and Skoda. Its market-leading reputation relies on providing high-quality dies to help OEMs improve the safety, comfort and quality of vehicles.

With the capacity to work on more than 100 dies simultaneously, the challenge of working with multiple versions of every die design slowed development and introduced errors. "We were creating CAD data for the design department which could not be used on the shop floor," explained Chief Engineer Francisco Cara. "This led to major problems. Errors were hard to detect and to solve."

CATIA V5 provides one common language

In December 2001, Dover implemented CATIA V5 across its organisation. Today, with 50 seats – 35 for design and 15 for manufacturing – the company's departments all work with the same CAD data and a single design for each stamping die.

"CATIA V5 ties together our whole company," Cara said. "From the time we receive the customer order to the time of the customer pressing the panels, we all speak one common language – CATIA V5. We can eliminate errors and offer a higher quality design."

Design time reduced, errors eliminated

Since implementing CATIA V5, Dover has been able to reduce the design time for stamping dies by up to 60 percent, eliminate errors and improve quality.



"Our company goals are to achieve high quality," Cara said. "Thanks to V5 we can pass on some of our development savings to our customers. We can now develop a new die for a car door in seven to eight months. Using our old approach this would have taken us well over a year."

Local IBM Business Partner Gedas Iberia, s.a. supplied CATIA V5 software and support. "We had high expectations at that time and we are pleased to say those expectations have been realised," said Cara. "I have to say we are very happy with the support and service from Gedas."

CATIA V5 drives business expansion

"We realised that almost all of our OEM customers would move to CATIA V5 sooner or later," said Cara. "We know that having long experience with V5 means we will be well placed to gain business from OEMs as they make the move over the coming months."

Dover has also invested in the latest manufacturing technology. It utilises 24 three-axis CNC machines, 2 five-axis CNC machines, a CMM machine for quality inspection and a five-axis laser cutter for prototype panels. All of these machines are driven by CATIA V5 with post processors and implementation support provided by Gedas.

To achieve a 'paperless office', Dover is also implementing ENOVIA 3Dcom throughout the company to provide the whole organisation with the ability to access and interrogate CATIA V5 data.

Dover touts CATIA V5 to broader community

"Now that we have seen the results of CATIA V5, I encourage everyone present to acquire this product," Oscar Tobia, Grupo Dover Sistema de Troqueles General Manager and co-founder, said at the 2003 Sociedad de Tecnicos de Automaci3n (STA) congress in Barcelona. "If we all use a common system we will gain more efficiency and it will give us the possibility to compete, in terms of technology and quality, with leading automotive nations such as Germany, Japan and the USA."

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