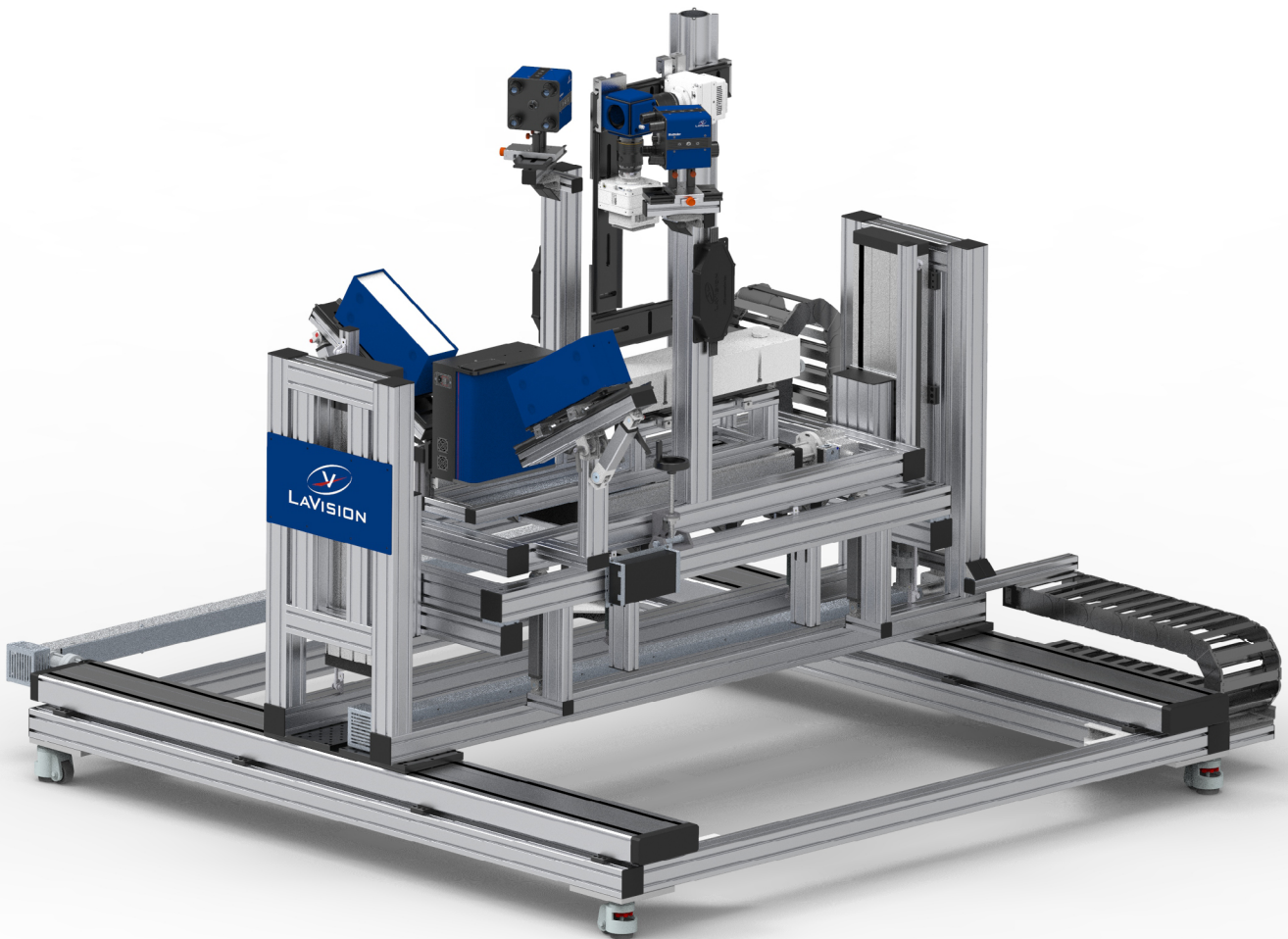


LaVision GmbH: PDM System implemented in Three Months



Customer

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Products

Solid Edge
PDM Studio

Long project times, difficult data transfer, missing interfaces - these are the complaints of medium-sized companies when it comes to the introduction of a product data management system. This was not the case for LaVision GmbH: The German specialist for (laser) measurement technology implemented the PDM Studio solution in mechanical design

with the Solid System Team (SST) in just three months. Other areas are to follow.

The universally applicable cross-sectional technology of imaging laser metrology is used in numerous application fields such as aerodynamics, microfluidics, combustion and spray and particle analysis. LaVision

develops, manufactures and markets imaging and sensor systems for flow measurement, combustion, spray and particle analysis as well as for non-contact materials testing. The company cooperates with automotive and aerospace companies, universities and research institutes.

Cooperation around Solid Edge

LaVision was also established in 1989, just like SST - and the cooperation with the system house and integration expert for CAD, CAM, PDM/PLM and ERP solutions for the German mechanical and plant engineering industry goes back to 2005: During this time they introduced the 3D CAD system Solid Edge from Siemens Digital Industries Software. To ensure that hardware developers can use their workplaces effectively and smoothly, they receive advice and support from SST. The long-standing cooperation includes helpful and profound administrator training, support with updates and upgrades, as well as a well-thought-out project support. During this process, the system house has earned a reputation for outstanding support and accessibility.

Product Data Management sought and found

A gap appeared within LaVision's professional IT infrastructure in its document management (DMS) and ERP system: „Product development data was managed in a file based-system in a decentralized manner,“ stated Tim Dornbusch, Head of Key Account Management at Solid System Team. „This made efficient teamwork difficult, such as integrating electrical, mechanical and software information.“ About three years ago, an evaluation phase for a suitable product data management (PDM) system to close this gap began. SST presented PDM-Studio, a solution from its own corporate group. The affiliated com-

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Tim Dornbusch
Head of Key Account Management
Solid System Team GmbH

pany CAD Partner GmbH develops the open, high-performance PDM solution with a focus on small and medium-sized companies in mechanical and plant engineering. There are other PDM/PLM solutions that can be integrated with Solid Edge.



However, these are often too extensive and complex, especially for small and medium-sized companies with a small number of CAD workstations. Such an implementation would have been associated with substantial risks due to the extensive cuts in existing processes.

PDM Studio can also be integrated directly with Solid Edge and can be accessed via a button on the user interface. If required, it can also operate with other CAD systems such as NX, SolidWorks or Inventor, even in parallel. In addition, the daily effort for developers is kept to a reasonable amount because many routine processes, such as the generation of

maintain an overview of different versions and revisions of individual components as well as complex assemblies. Intelligent data synchronization via caching & streaming keeps the network load low. This, together with possible connections to other applications and the simple handling of the PDM functions, also enables work to be carried out in home office. Due to the many years of successful cooperation with the system house from Nittendorf near Regensburg, the well-thought-out support during the evaluation phase and the integration capability with existing systems, LaVision decided to introduce PDM Studio after about a year.

Three Months to Go-Live

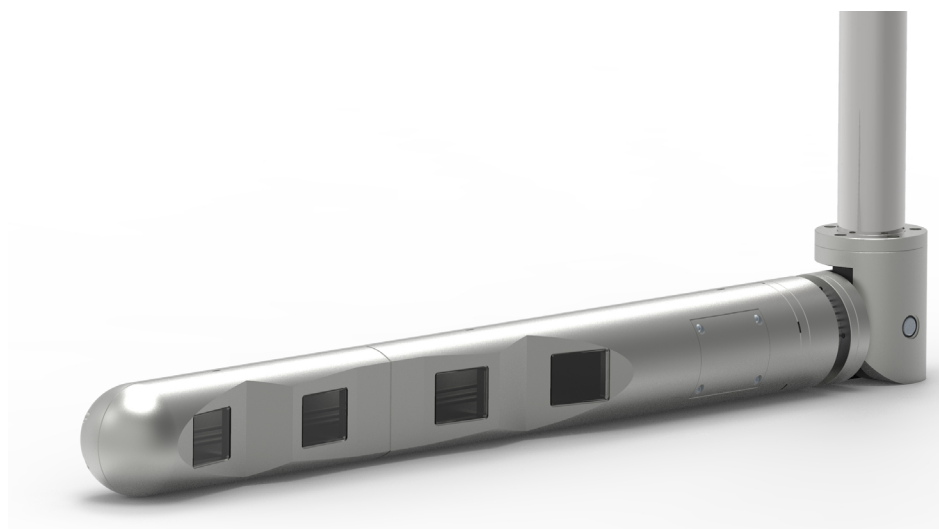
The understanding of the customer's way of working gained over the years and the meticulously carried out preliminary work contributed to the successful realization of the implementation project in record time. In general, PDM Studio is designed to be implemented in the shortest possible time and without much disruption to daily work. „I would particularly like to emphasize the very structured planning of the system implementation,“ explained Regine Müller, Head of Hardware Development. „SST encouraged us to a swift implementation, but gave us enough time for internal testing. As a result,

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Regine Müller
Head of Hardware Development
LaVision GmbH

neutral formats and the forwarding of relevant documents to other departments, run automatically in the background.

Designers, manufacturers, purchasers and service technicians can all access identical information and



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The project, which in this case was even carried out entirely in remote workshops and presentations, placed high demands on the service provider: „The distributed data had to be collected, structured, prepared and migrated by our solution architects and technical consultants at various storage locations,“ recalls Tim Dornbusch. „We customized the standard interfaces for ERP and DMS integration to enable efficient working and structured file storage.“ A special interface now allows all project managers beyond the CAD department to view daily updated product development data. „The seamless connection of our ERP to the new PDM/PLM solution enables continuous processes across departmental boundaries,“ said Thomas Berg, Managing Director of LaVision GmbH. „We are convinced that with PDM Studio we will achieve structured data storage and a more efficient way of working. We want to use the saved resources for new product developments.“

Further Expansion planned

The system, which integrates perfectly into the IT landscape of CAD, DMS and ERP, has been in productive use since January 2022. There are even more possible applications in development-related areas such as technical documentation, verification and validation. The success speaks for itself: In the meantime, the company is examining other areas, such as electronics design, which can be integrated into the flexible system. In this way, previously isolated applications are being intelligently linked step by step, so that the data stock is becoming increasingly consistent and the entire company is benefiting more and more from the continuous flow of information.

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Thomas Berg
Managing Director
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