

COMET Group, Flamatt, Switzerland

Professionally Managed Product Development, with SAP PLM

»As part of the incorporation of YXLON into the COMET group, we were looking for an integrated system that gave us a standardized, up-to-date overview of product data. Our new SAP PLM system does this in combination with the itelligence AG SAP ERP system it.manufacturing – and it has also significantly increased our process efficiency. In addition, it prevents errors resulting from the use of incorrect or outdated product information.«

Mark Mildner, PLM Project Manager for the full implementation of SAP, COMET Group

Upon acquiring the Hamburg X-ray systems manufacturer YXLON, the COMET Group, based in Flamatt, Switzerland became the global market leader in non-destructive X-ray testing of materials. With YXLON's help, COMET can now offer complex systems, including software and aftersales service, alongside the high-tech components and modules it already manufactures. However, the two companies' engineering processes and IT systems were very different. When the acquisition took place in 2007, they had to integrate their data

and processes, particularly in development and production. The COMET group was using a competing product data management (PDM) product at its Flamatt site, without an automatic interface, so data could not be synchronized in a comprehensive and rule-based manner. YXLON was already using SAP, but this was an older version that was not connected to the existing CAD system, so CAD data had to be managed manually on the file system.

COMET Group

Best in class: The COMET Group is the world's leading supplier of systems, components and services for the nondestructive materials testing, security and semiconductor sectors, and operates in all key world markets. Its market leadership is partly the result of acquiring the X-ray systems manufacturer YXLON in 2007. The COMET Group now has some 610 employees in Switzerland, Germany and Denmark, and subsidiaries in the United States, China and Japan.

COMETGROUP

Name:
COMET Group

Sector:
Mechanical engineering/
electronics

Business:
Supplier of systems,
components and services to
the nondestructive materials
testing, security and
semiconductor sectors

Employees:
610, including
approx. 300 SAP users

Headquarters:
Flamatt, Switzerland

Sites:
Germany, Denmark,
United States, China,
and Japan

Managing Product Data Effectively

To ensure that the two companies could operate with a shared knowledge base, COMET decided to implement the intelligence industry solution it.manufacturing, based on SAP Business All-in-One, together with SAP Product Lifecycle Management (SAP PLM). COMET wanted to use the technology platform, based on SAP NetWeaver, to manage product data such as CAD drawings, models, templates, parts lists and working plans, and share these internationally.

After a detailed design phase in Flamatt, we began working with COMET on the simultaneous implementation of it.manufacturing and SAP PLM. In introducing PLM, we migrated data from the existing SAP and PDM systems and integrated the CAD system via SolidWorks directly into SAP PLM. The existing PDM system was therefore replaced, and the manual interface was no longer required as a result of the integration. Designers continue to work in their existing environment, are comfortable with SAP, and can produce up-to-date drawings and models for other departments. Document management provides a single, consistent set of product data for everyone involved.

Information for Everyone in the Production Chain

It took six months to create a comprehensive PLM solution in Flamatt, where all departments now employ this user-friendly tool to manage product data, as COMET/YXLON PLM implementation project leader Mark Mildner explains. "SAP PLM allows us to produce reliable data for groups of people with differing needs, all at the touch of a button. Everyone in the production chain has access to up-to-date information, which has improved the quality of our products and reduced our costs, because automated processes produce fewer errors."

The integrated system, based on a standardized SAP solution, it.manufacturing, means that the company is using fewer systems, and thus fewer interfaces. This involves far less manual effort, particularly in terms of parts lists and change management. All COMET and YXLON sites will eventually be able to use these standardized processes. By rolling out SAP PLM at all of its sites, the company is ensuring that its product development is managed professionally, throughout the world.

Facts & Figures

Solution: SAP with PLM CAD integration

Project duration: 10 months

The Benefits:

- Integrated system allows companies in different countries to work together efficiently
- Standardized, up-to-date overview of product data
- Increased process efficiency minimizes errors
- Establishes standardized processes

