

SAP Customer Success Story



Continental Automotive Systems (CAS), market leader of electronic brake systems, chose mySAP™ Product Life-cycle Management (mySAP™ PLM) for world-wide implementation. As a result, CAS can now view all its development processes in one system, which facilitates enterprise-wide product development.

Continental
TEVES



CONTINENTAL AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS (CAS)

CONTINENTAL AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS LEVERAGES mySAP™ PLM

Continental Automotive Systems (CAS) is one of the world's leading suppliers of systems and components for the automobile industry. With approximately 18,500 employees worldwide, CAS is represented in 35 locations in Europe, the Americas, and Asia. CAS is a recognized technological leader, especially in the area of brakes and chassis control systems. It has achieved this leadership position due to its strong dedication to development. "To guarantee the safety of our products, our development has become more technically demanding. We are working continuously on an intelligent chassis, which is even safer yet comfortable at the same time," explains Dieter Burkard, chief information officer at CAS.

DEDICATION TO DEVELOPMENT

CAS has its own development departments all over the world, and coordination among the departments is precise and unambiguous. "Every development step is carried out only once," asserts Burkard. To prevent an expensive test from being repeated, standardized documentation of the current development status is required. CAS uses mySAP PLM, which is fully integrated with their companywide SAP solution, for all development steps. This means CAS has one interface and one information repository, with the SAP solution serving as the foundation for information technology. Employees can find the information they need for their daily work – from product norms to sales data.

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The first CAS employees have been working with mySAP PLM since December 2001. By August 2002, mySAP PLM will be running at all development sites. When this happens, CAS will have reached its goal to replace in-house IT developments with standard software for creating and managing data in a single repository. As a cross-industry e-business solution, mySAP PLM manages, monitors, and controls product information throughout the entire product and asset life cycle. Design engineers, quality managers, and production coworkers can collaborate on product development across the entire enterprise. This complete solution reduces product implementation costs and time.

SEAMLESS CAD INTEGRATION

Because mySAP PLM is integrated in the companywide SAP solution, CAS does not require any additional interfaces, thereby eliminating a potential source of errors. The CATIA CAD application is seamlessly integrated, and any changes made by design engineers in the CAD application are transferred immediately to mySAP PLM. Using mySAP PLM, design engineers and other employees can access graphical drawings and get an overview of the current product development status at any time. Because development can now occur simultaneously in multiple locations, CAS employees can handle the increasingly shorter development cycles

of manufacturers. mySAP Product Lifecycle Management supports the entire development process, manages plant standards and test reports, and enables product documentation maintenance.

The single-user interface provided by mySAP PLM is not only user-friendly; it delivers business benefits as well. Because the interface is easy to learn and easy to use, training costs are reduced and user acceptance is increased.

“For us, a stable process through to production is especially important. Since we produce on a highly integrated level, all departments are connected to our SAP system. mySAP™ PLM is another piece in the mosaic of our extensive and global SAP world.”

Dieter Burkard, Chief Information Officer at CAS

SECURE NETWORKS AND FUTURE PLANS

All companywide metadata is stored in a central location. Employees with the appropriate authorization can search for and access the data at any time and from any place. However, this internal open policy for accessing information is only possible because CAS places great importance on data transmission

security. Only secure private networks, such as VPN, ENX, or ANX, are used to transmit highly sensitive development data.

Using this data network, CAS wants to extend collaboration with automobile manufacturers. In the future, CAS plans to connect customer CAD applications with its own mySAP PLM solution.