

INGERSOLL-RAND Steelcraft selects NetIDEAS to Host PDM system for Shop Floor Drawing Initiative

Seeks to start out solving one data management pain and evolving toward a more robust PDM solution to improve overall performance.

Solution Overview

Company

Ingersoll Rand Steelcraft
Cincinnati OH
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John Kalka

Industry

Industrial Products

NetIDEAS Solution

ICEPak

Partner

PTC

Ingersoll-Rand's Steelcraft Division is looking to revolutionize its product data management systems to catapult the company into an unbeatable competitive position within its security and safety industry. Successful over the years, yet feeling the pressure of the competitive market they lead, Steelcraft recognized that they needed to get started on the new systems as quickly as possible and yet manage that rollout as to not impact the performance being realized today. Choosing a hosted deployment of Windchill by NetIDEAS offers Steelcraft the exact mix of financial, risk, functionality impacts they feel they need to meet their goals.

In 1999, Ingersoll-Rand Company invested millions of dollars in Parametric Technologies Corporation Windchill Solution to enable a world-class collaborative environment and achieve some strategic business goals. The vision of implementing Windchill, as well as the costs, however, had been left to the divisions and as a result, very little had been done with this substantial investment to date.

The challenge with Windchill is determining which aspects to roll out to the organization and at what timeframe; then specifying the effort so that the ROI is financially palatable. Historically, implementations of Windchill have cost millions of dollars and require implementation, personnel, hardware resources, database software, training, and time. By soliciting NetIDEAS, the Application Service Provider (ASP) for Windchill, to forge a strategic relationship, Ingersoll Rand Corporate realizes an alternative strategy for reaching the Business goals that justified the large investment a few years ago.

Steelcraft was faced with this dilemma and realized that leveraging the ASP approach and the planned rollout idea, that they could implement the capabilities needed at a pace that could be digestible by the culture and the finances & resources of the business unit.

In starting small and building momentum, Steelcraft is planning on a multi-phase project initiating with shop floor drawing repository, followed by Document Management and change control. As the value is realized and the product development pain points elevate in other areas, Steelcraft will consider pursuing more advanced functionality such as Product Structure, CAD integration, and ERP integration. "The use of Windchill is intended to optimize how we control our design and product data" said John Kalka, Manager of Information Systems at Steelcraft.



For More Information

For more information about NetIDEAS products or services, please visit our Web site or call us at (856) 914-9410 (US).

<http://www.netideasinc.com>

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The initial rollout will replace filing cabinets loaded with part drawings at several locations in its shop. In addition to replacing the paper, the administration and configuration control of the drawings itself will be tremendously minimized by controlling the data in NetIDEAS customization of Windchill called ICEPak. The anticipated benefits of the initial rollout included elimination of the shop floor drawings, minimization of administration keeping printed drawings up to date in numerous locations, speed the process of getting updated and/or new drawings to the shop floor, and provide better quality drawing information to the machine operators.

As Steelcraft begins controlling the drawings within ICEPak, the engineering department will begin utilizing the power of the engineering change workflows so not only control the life-cycle of part drawings, but include other product related data. Getting data management processes into a system like ICEPak is exactly what Steelcraft thinks it needs to reach its strategic goals.

From the resource side, Steelcraft has been following the general trend at IR to outsource non-core activities. By evolving its own IT group toward program management and team liaisons to key partners like NetIDEAS, Steelcraft can stay acutely aware of the business units needs and manage its partners to achieve the desired results with a small and talented team in IT.

"NetIDEAS hosted version of Windchill, their production experience, total cost of ownership, and guidance around culture change for these types of solutions all meshed well with the relationship we were looking for," said Kalka.

