Global parts management in the SMS group

Case study

PARTsolutions

SMS group
The SMS group has been using the Strategic Parts Management PARTsolutions from the German software manufacturer CADENAS since 2006. As a globally operating company, SMS has the target to orient its parts management more internationally and to integrate all SMS companies worldwide with its catalog parts, manufacturers and standards into SAP by 2020.

The SMS group, under the roof of SMS Holding GmbH, is a group of global players in machinery and plant construction for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. More than 14,000 employees generate global sales of some EUR 3.4 billion.

**CASE STUDY**

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**Parts management in the SMS group in numbers**

- > 55,000 standard parts in SAP
- > 83,000 catalog parts in SAP
- > 2,400 manufacturers
- 1,500 - 2,000 requests for parts/month (of which approx. 1/5 standard parts)
- > 48,000 standard parts
- > 43,000 catalog parts

Status: February 2016
There is a central department at the SMS group responsible for all tasks around the topic of „parts management“. With the help of PARTsolutions the company’s design engineers are provided with, amongst other things, currently updated manufacturer catalogs and capable catalog parts with multi CAD. These are provided in many CAD formats including: Creo Parametric, Autodesk Inventor and Auto CAD. Moreover, SMS internal catalog and standard parts are created with their specific requirement as 3D CAD geometries and made available in the Parts Management System from CADENAS. In addition, the department of parts management at the SMS group is responsible for the system and the updating of the ERP material master data of standard and catalog parts in SAP. Besides other important tasks, the department also conducts the testing and release of the components requested by the design engineers.

**Internal process for requesting a standard or catalog part**
Especially with the international orientation of parts management, the SMS group currently faces a number of challenges. A parts management department is being established in India at this time. This means that, above all, the language barrier must be overcome. Previously most of the regulations for parts management have been in German, but now English is required. The same applies to the standards and data sheets as well as to the folder names, which must also be made available in English. In addition, international standards must be updated and, for example, sizes and dimensions given in international measuring units.

“Foreign sites are not to merely be extended workbenches in the future, thus our company has the target of integrating all SMS group companies in SAP by the year 2020. This means a change to the ERP system for all newly integrated locations, which will involve a number of challenges. For each conversion, all standard and purchase parts must be matched. Moreover, numerous new standards and new manufacturers at every location must be set up in SAP,” says Bernd Postaremczak, SMS group GmbH.

Central access to all locations for identical parts information

Numerous locations of the SMS group worldwide already access the Strategic Parts Management PARTsolutions. Parts information used to be stored at individual locations and were updated and made available only after hours on end. Parts data of the SMS group have been centrally stored on one server, the PARTapplication, since March 2015. Thus, all locations now have access to the same parts data, which are made available to design engineers much faster. „We are one of the first customers to use the CADENAS web service for the quick distribution of data to distant company locations. We are excited how well everything works,” says Bernd Postaremczak, SMS group GmbH.

Challenges for parts management in a globally operating company

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Avoiding duplicates and the best possible data quality

They are aware at SMS that effective parts management is a continuous task. “When we first started using the Strategic Parts Management PARTsolutions, our goal was to reduce the diversity of parts at the company. Meanwhile, we have had to realize that it’s not possible as long as new SMS companies, with their parts, manufacturers and standards, are being integrated into SAP,” says Bernd Postaremczak, SMS group GmbH. “PARTsolutions enables us to improve data quality considerably, in that duplicates are avoided to a large extent and existing 3D data sets can be found easily and quickly.”

Examples for the use of PARTsolutions in the SMS group
Company description

SMS group

The SMS group, under the roof of SMS Holding GmbH, is a group of global players in machinery and plant construction for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. More than 14,000 employees generate global sales of some EUR 3.4 billion.

The SMS group is a family company with clear goals and structures. Responsibility, innovation and determined orientation towards the expectations of our customers have helped us to grow successfully for over 140 years. The SMS group symbol is a uniform hallmark of our activities.

www.sms-group.com

CADENAS GmbH

CADENAS is a leading software manufacturer in the areas of strategic parts management and parts reduction (PARTsolution) as well as electronic CAD product catalog (eCATALOGsolutions). Included are the numerous innovative search functions such as the Geometric Similarity search GEOsearch, which is termed Intelligent Finding and is offered as an alternative and supplement to the traditional classified parts master. With its tailor-made software solutions, CADENAS provides a link between component manufacturers and their products as well as their customers. The company thus supports worldwide over 10,000 customers in 40 countries. With more than 300 employees at 17 international locations, CADENAS stands for success, creativity, consultancy and process optimization since 1992.

www.cadenas.de/en