

IMPROVING STANDARD PARTS MANAGEMENT AT EUROCOPTER

THREE REQUIREMENTS:

For several years, Eurocopter has been looking for a solution to meet three requirements:

- Combine own parts and the purchased part world in construction
- Connect parts catalogs to CAD, PDM and ERP
- Lasting reduction of costs linked to parts management

After an extensive analysis with different suppliers, it was decided that CADENAS is the perfect addition to our available systems. With the Strategic Parts Management system from CADENAS, Eurocopter found the perfect solution to maintain a reduction in costs and optimize the company's processes.

CADENAS lowers costs and raises data quality

At the origin of the project, the tooling department was the first domain, in which the solution has been implemented some years ago. They decided to test CADENAS' potential to lower costs and optimize development processes.

After the implementation, a poll confirmed that the right solution was chosen. As a user

maintains: "CADENAS provides us with a complete content in terms of catalogs and complementary functionalities (shaft generator, bolting module) for standard and supplier parts management. These are not always available in CAD systems. These tools provide us with a huge gain in time for our product design, and allow us to simulate and check our designs. The potential is simply impressive."

2008: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CADENAS AND EUROCOPTER

The collaboration between CADENAS and Eurocopter reached a global level during the conception of the EC175 program, thanks to the combination of the Eurocopter Group's various department needs:

- **The engineering department** needed drawings of the standard parts used for the EC175 program, in the Catia V5 format. They also needed CAD drawings of the aeronautic standards and of Eurocopter's internal standard parts.
- **The standardization team** wanted to promote the use of already referenced parts in Eurocopter databases. It was their goal to reference "exotic" parts, thus using as many existing parts as possible.



About Eurocopter:

The Eurocopter Group was born in 1992 from the merger between the helicopter divisions of Aerospatiale-Matra (France) and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (Germany). It is owned 100% by EADS, (European Aeronautic, Defense and Space Company). Eurocopter is the world's number one helicopter manufacturer, with 30% of the total world helicopter fleet. More than 10,000 Eurocopter helicopters are currently in service with over 2,800 customers in more than 140 countries. Eurocopter offers the largest civil and military helicopter range in the world.

■ **The information systems manager** wished to connect the CAD library to Eurocopter's PDM (VPM) and to SAP, in order to create a better information flow, and reduce the number of duplicates in databases.

■ **At the strategic level**, the Eurocopter Group wished to reduce design costs for helicopters while simultaneously improving the internal processes of the company.

multi-CAD make-up is a great advantage and greatly reduces maintenance.

Four designers at Eurocopter (two in Germany and two in France) were trained to use eCATALOGsolutions. **More than 1,134 standard part families have been integrated into the library within one year!**

"The standardization department is now



"I specifically want to highlight CADENAS' ability to sign a global contract with the Eurocopter Group. Despite market globalization, this is not always easy. We now have a Eurocopter Group license, which gives us the opportunity to be a standard at all locations and worldwide subsidiaries. This is a WIN/WIN situation for everyone", declares Manfred Seiler, information system manager for technical applications.

How CADENAS' SOLUTIONS WORK AT EUROCOPTER

A global and centralized catalog

Eurocopter needed to integrate its own internal standards as well as the aeronautic standards into the available CADENAS library, which did not prove to be a problem with CADENAS' instrument eCATALOGsolutions. Quite the contrary: The

able to independently manage the 3D standard parts library, which is used in our construction department", explains Alexis Rivaud, Enterprise Product Data Manager.

With CADENAS' solutions, Eurocopter has a centralized system, which enables supplier parts, internal and aeronautic standards, to be combined and is completely integrated into the Group's software environment.

CADENAS integration with Catia, VPM and SAP

"CADENAS is the tool that was missing to make an official link between the ERP, CAD and PDM systems", continues Alexis Rivaud. The connection between CADENAS and SAP allows the designers to visualize and give preference to already referenced parts in Eurocopter databases, while avoiding the use of non-recommended parts.

Quotes:

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*Manfred Seiler,
IT Manager – Technical Applications*

"The standardization department is now able to manage the 3D standard parts library independently"

"CADENAS is the tool that was missing to make an official link between the ERP, CAD and PDM systems"

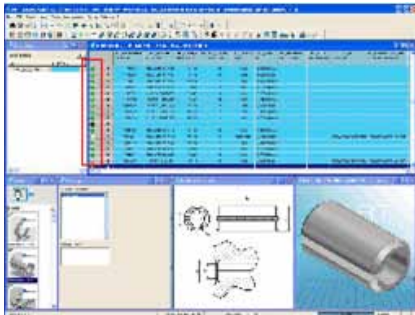
*Alexis Rivaud,
Tool, data and process analyst - Enterprise Product Data Management*

"Today, developers are constantly asking for CADENAS concerning their models. We have been using CADENAS for 3 years and now it has become a reflex for our designers to use it. For me it is the main sign of the success."

*Sébastien Bernard,
CAD/PDM, Processes,
Methods & Tools*

Engineering departments also save a lot of time with CADENAS interfaces with the PDM VPM. When a designer needs to integrate a part into an assembly it is not necessary for him to first check whether the part is already stored in PDM. Check-in and check-out processes are automated.

Finally, completely integrated into CATIA V5, the CADENAS CAD library is available with just one click and guarantees Catia V5 native files, with restrictions, assemblies, etc.



The list of available parts is displayed in the library, with a color code, in front of each row.

Green light: the part is available in SAP; Red light: the part is not available for the user; Black light: the part is not available, etc.

THE KEY POINTS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- Improvement of design processes
- Effective and sustainable cost reduction
- Link between existing CAD, PDM and ERP systems
- Increase use of same parts and repeated parts in the company
- Centralized standard parts management system in one tool - CADENAS - and managed by one single Eurocopter department: standardization department
- Simplified access to Eurocopter's standard parts for the engineering departments, and the availability of 3D standard and supplier parts all in one user interface
- Increase in user satisfaction, as all information is available at a glance