

ABB BODY IN WHITE THE HEART OF ROBOTICS

ABB BODY-IN-WHITE – eCATALOGSOLUTIONS AS A TOOL FOR DIVIDING INFORMATION

ABB Body-In-White (BIW), a division of the ABB group, is focused on assembly lines for automobile chassis, and employs more than 400 employees. As a partner of the largest car manufacturers like PSA, Renault, Ford, Daimler Chrysler, Opel etc., ABB BIW presents products focused in four areas:

- FlexFramer: Main body assembly with flexible robots
- Modulflex: Standardized module for sub assemblies
- Roller-Hemming: Unique hemming tool suited to the robotic process
- Flexlean: Flexible assembly line based on flexible cells



IMPROVING THE INFORMATION SHARING AT ABB

In a competitive environment, ABB Body-In-White always searches for solutions to shorten the time-to-market between concept design and production of their robots. »We try to improve the sharing of our standard products and internal standards inside ABB.« entrusts Fabrice Legeleux, Responsible R&D for ABB Body-In-White France.

The target is to develop an internal library for all our construction offices at ABB BIW. The 3D drawings should be compatible to all CAD systems already used at ABB and easy to share, because they are simplified.

ABB CHOOSES THE FLEXIBILITY OF eCATALOGSOLUTIONS

Already used at ABB Drives in the United States, eCATALOGsolutions seduced the Body-In-White division due in part to its flexibility and its user-friendliness: »We appreciate the interface containing graphic labels and the possibility of generating files in multiple CAD formats. Main factor was the direct import of CAD files into our CAD-system CATIA.«

ABB Body-In-White chose eCATALOGsolutions by CADENAS for creating an internal product library, which is compatible to all CAD systems and simplifies the technical construction process.

»With eCATALOGsolutions, we can improve the information sharing of our products and internal standards.

»We appreciated the interface containing graphic labels and the possibility of generating files in multiple CAD formats.«

»We really appreciate the direct import of the components into our CAD system CATIA.«

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- THE ADVANTAGES:**
- Reduction of the time-to-market for ABB products
 - Good acceptance by users due to the simple interface
 - Possibility of creating a catalog for customers using this internal catalog
 - Planned creation of a product configurator

SIMPLIFY THE WORK OF THE DESIGN DEPARTMENT

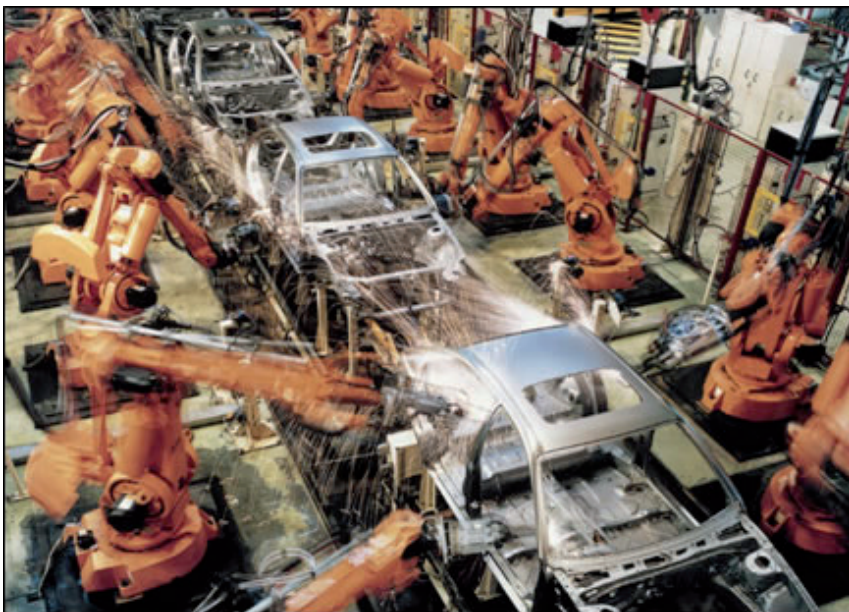
ABB Body-In-White chose the software version of eCATALOGsolutions. CADENAS proposed the realization of the whole 3D library, but with eCATALOGsolutions, ABB is autonomous for 100 %. »After a formation, our construction office can feed the library continuously.«

»The advantage of this new library is that it proposes multiple contents: 2D and 3D drawings and the documentation together in one place. The access to the contents is simplified due to the graphic interface.«, adds Fabrice Legeleux. Taking into consideration the 170 working stations and 20.000 m² of working space it is a big advantage to the whole ABB company!

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

ABB Body-In-White sees other benefits for the eCATALOG solutions product.

- Configurator for the interactive creation of grippers for robots
- Creation of a digital product catalog for their customers
- The connection of their internal library to their ERP and PDM to add additional information from other services
- The generalization of the CADENAS solutions within ABB, if these developments are conclusive



»After some training, we were able to add parts to the library on our own.«

»The advantage of this new library: the 2D and 3D drawings and the documentation are all in one. The usage is simple due to the user-friendly graphic interface.«

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