



Leading Manufacturer of Commercial and Military Aerospace Platforms Improves Product Development Efficiencies

Customer

Astronics Advanced Electronic Systems (AES) is a subsidiary of Astronics Corporation, a leader in advanced, high-performance lighting, electrical power generation, control, and distribution systems for the global aerospace industry. Astronics AES is an electronics manufacturer for commercial and military aerospace platforms including lighting, power generation, distribution and control. Boasting over 45 years of service to the aerospace industry and servicing more than 100 airlines, Astronics AES provides its customers with extensive engineering, manufacturing and product support capabilities, including after-market and FAA-certified repair and overhaul.

Challenge/Situation

Like many electronics manufacturers, Astronics AES was challenged with its manual product development processes. The company produces well over 100 products, each with their own processes and workflows, and over 20,000 parts. "With a growing number of parts, products and changes, added to the tracking of drawings, schematics and part lists, there were definitely efficiencies to be had by tightening up the management of all internal processes so that no steps could be skipped and outdated processes could be eliminated," stated Marty Jeide, Program Manager for Astronics AES.

They were using a home-grown system consisting of Windows folders, various Excel files and worksheets, and Access databases with complicated security schemes to manage product data. The growing silos of information and manual processes burdened Astronics with data inconsistencies that resulted in costly rework late in the manufacturing process.

"If an engineer changed a part or component via engineering change notice, for instance, the 'system' relied upon a manufacturing engineer or other operations person to incorporate the change into the Manufacturing BOM. If that did not happen, wrong parts could be potentially built that would have to be reworked to the new, correct configuration when identified at later steps in the manufacturing process," continued Mr. Jeide.

Customer Goals

New strategies to maintain competitive edge

To position themselves for continued growth, the executive team at Astronics AES was motivated to look at new strategies that would maintain the company's competitive edge and product reputation in bringing leading electrical power to passengers and airline personnel.

Key Benefits

- Time and Cost Savings
 - Eliminate potential data inaccuracies and costly rework
 - Reduce searching time with data in a single location
 - Improve resource allocation
 - Facilitate meeting ISO and FAA regulatory requirements
- Streamlined Communication
 - Automate manual processes
 - Eliminate silos of information
 - Single location to create and change product data
 - Ensure accuracy of data across the enterprise
 - Standardize and control internal processes
- Business-ready solution
 - Easy to use
 - Fast implementation
 - Open technology platform for integration with existing ERP system, **Intuitive**
 - Open technology platform for integration with existing engineering systems, **SolidWorks** and **OrCAD CIS**
 - Secure environment/controlled viewing of information

EmPower® In-Seat Power Systems are installed on over 100 airlines and more than 200,000 seats.



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CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Investing in a Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) system to tighten product lifecycle processes and ensure that accurate product data was shared among design and manufacturing teams was the first step. The company needed to improve antiquated processes, particularly with engineering change and documentation control. “We wanted a solution to help streamline our product development processes and improve efficiencies,” commented Mr. Jeide.

The company required a PLM system that provided easy integration with their ERP environment, **Intuitive** from Consona, so that product data such as Bill of Materials (BOMs), drawings and changes could be automatically ported to the Intuitive system and eliminate errors related to hand-entering data. They also wanted the ability to integrate the PLM system with their engineering design environments, **SolidWorks** and **OrCAD CIS**.

“We evaluated a number of PLM systems for the purpose of creating a best practices environment and found Omnify’s PLM software stood out from the crowd of PLM vendors in terms of it being a robust system, having a seamless interface to our Intuitive ERP system, and extremely good people standing behind the Omnify product.”

-Marty Jeide, Program Manager, Astronics AES

Omnify Solution

Gain control of processes, streamline data and improve efficiencies

Omnify enabled Astronics AES to gain control of processes, streamline data and improve efficiencies. “We evaluated a number of PLM systems for the purpose of creating a best practices environment and found Omnify’s PLM software stood out from the crowd of PLM vendors in terms of it being a robust system, having a seamless interface to our Intuitive ERP and extremely good people standing behind the Omnify product,” stated Jeide.

By delivering a single, secure location to manage all product related data including component, BOM, engineering change, and product documentation information, Omnify helped Astronics eliminate the silos of information and ensure all team members have access to current data. The company will expand their use of Omnify to track capital equipment, personnel data, and training certificates with Omnify’s latest release, Empower.

“With the implementation of our Omnify PLM software, we have been able to achieve a single Engineering BOM that is controlled in Omnify PLM and can only be changed via a formal change process in Omnify,” continued Jeide. “All changes, when authorized, are automatically forwarded by Omnify via a software link to our Intuitive ERP system. The process is automatic and fool proof and there can no longer potentially be a difference between what is designed and what is built, thanks to Omnify.”

Omnify also facilitates Astronics’ ability to meet ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) regulations by making compliance demonstration much easier to accomplish. Omnify provides the necessary functionality to store, track and report data required by these regulatory bodies.

Customer Success

“With 300 employees and data coming from multiple sources, systems, and departments, it is often difficult to adapt to change and instill good corporate disciplines but a number of small efficiencies can really make a major impact”, said Jeide. “In a short time, I can say with certainty that we are well on our way to having fully documented processes. We are quite happy with the Omnify PLM software,” added Jeide.

Astronics has been able to maximize efficiencies by establishing a controlled environment to manage all product data and implement formal processes. The company has also realized cost-savings by preventing late-stage rework through the automatic upload of design data to Intuitive ERP. In addition, employees have been able to move on to more productive tasks other than manually maintaining Configuration Management (CM) records and performing tedious searches to find information, resulting in improved resource allocation.