



Application Management at Georg Fischer: One-stop CATIA-Support

As a reaction to the ever-increasing cost and time pressures in the automotive market, more and more suppliers need to increase the efficiency of their business processes. A special focus here is set on the optimization of development and design processes by way of a continuous PLM strategy.

Georg Fischer Automotive, a division of the internationally active Swiss Group Georg Fischer, has realized this trend early and thus initiated the right measures. By way of an Application Management agreement with CENIT, that covers the entire responsibility for the CATIA environment, Georg Fischer Automotive can now focus on its actual core competencies and stay ahead of the competition. As an important supplier to the major OEMs, Georg Fischer is an expert for highly stress-resistant castings for the automotive industry and works with high quality standards. Thus, Georg Fischer also set high standards and expectations for its own search of a service provider.

► INITIAL SITUATION

As a first step, Georg Fischer Automotive decided upon outsourcing the IT infrastructure to the IT service provider EDS, and, supplementary to this, upon the

conclusion of CATIA service agreements with CENIT. However, soon, it became obvious, that the CATIA management processes showed further optimization potential.

► OPTIMIZATION

In 2007, Georg Fischer then decided to outsource the entire CATIA operations to CENIT, a provider with over 20 years

of specialized experience as a Dassault partner. CENIT, that Georg Fischer knew, would have the required expertise and would make the right choices with regard to tool prerequisites. Uwe Kruse, CIO at Georg Fischer, explains the decision: "process orientation and standardization on the one hand and a flexible adaptation to our requirements on the other were the decisive criteria in selecting this provider."

of specialized experience as a Dassault partner. CENIT, that Georg Fischer knew, would have the required expertise and would make the right choices with regard to tool prerequisites. Uwe Kruse, CIO at Georg Fischer, explains the decision: "process orientation and standardization on the one hand and a flexible adaptation to our requirements on the other were the decisive criteria in selecting this provider."

“The flexible adaptation of the service agreement to our requirements was the decisive factor when deciding upon the provider.”

**Uwe Kruse
CIO and Head of IT**

of specialized experience as a Dassault partner. CENIT, that Georg Fischer knew, would have the required expertise and would make the right choices with regard to tool prerequisites. Uwe Kruse, CIO at Georg Fischer, explains the decision: "process orientation and standardization on the one hand and a flexible adaptation to our requirements on the other were the decisive criteria in selecting this provider."

tional support services. This includes Georg Fischer specific application support. During work hours, CENIT specialists are available, thus critical situations in the development and construction process can be resolved quickly.

"Only a provider as specialized as CENIT AG can offer optimal support processes for the PLM environment and guarantee us the resulting positive cost effects", says Uwe Kruse, Georg Fischer CIO. In addition, Georg Fischer and CENIT agreed on a possibly maximum uniformity of its CAX work station environments during the

Step by step, CENIT took over the entire responsibility for the CAX environment at more than 100 workstations at 9 lo-



initial phase. In close cooperation with the specialty departments as well as with the IT department at Georg Fischer, that had by then re-taken the responsibility over the operating systems, a template was developed.

► COURSE OF THE PROJECT

December 2007 saw the kick-off for the step-by-step implementation of the Application Management processes at Georg Fischer's headquarters in Schaffhausen. Due to the many different server types, applications and the various add-on programs in use at this location, just the right touch was needed.

An optimal result was based on certain basic requirements that were only made possible through a close and confident cooperation. After the very successful start at the headquarters, the project was continued in further sub-projects. At the Singen plant, the next step in the process was taken, with the optimization of the server infrastructure. As of summer 2008, all further manufacturing plants are included in the support concept.

► IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

Uwe Kruse outlines the benefits of the cooperation with CENIT: „Naturally, we feel that the ability to plan and have an overview of the costs, which such an agreement based on a monthly fixed prize entails, are a particular advantage.

Furthermore, the high level of systems availability and the expectation of improved performance of our development and manufacturing processes played a major role. And, through CENIT's continuous analysis of the help-desk calls, we expect important input for e.g. necessary training measures or effective process adaptations.“

“The guaranteed high availability of the applications involved plays a major role.”

Uwe Kruse
CIO and Head of IT

Last but not least, all benefits from the outsourcing of the operational responsibility should lead to one: a boosted competitiveness that prepares the company for today's and future challenges.

► ABOUT GEORG FISCHER

Georg Fischer is a leading industrial group that focuses on its three core businesses automotive supply, piping systems and mechanical engineering for electro-discharge machining as well as for high-speed and high-performance moulding cutters.

These core competencies are reflected in

the three business units GF Automotive, GF Piping Systems and GF AgieCharmilles.

Founded in 1802 and headquartered in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, the Corporation generates annual sales of four billion Swiss francs and employs some 12,000 people worldwide.

GF Automotive, with its thirteen production plants in four countries, is a technology and market leader in Europe, for all casting processes relating to series production (sand casting, gravity die casting, pressure die casting) as well as for processing the associated materials (iron, aluminium, magnesium).



Image Source: Georg Fischer Automotive AG.

KONTAKT

CENIT

Dirk Roßenbeck

Max-Planck-Str. 17

40699 Erkrath (Unterfeldhaus)

Tel.: +49 211 530652-23

Fax: +49 711 7825-44-4946

E-Mail: d.rossenbeck@cenit.de

Web: www.cenit.de/ams