



## Use case

How to structure the data  
of **your BIM objects**?

# Implementation of a common database within Mercadona

It may come as a surprise to some that a company like Mercadona, an international supermarket chain, is implementing BIM processes. What many do not know is that Mercadona, not only belongs to the large-scale distribution sector, but also designs, promotes the execution and maintains all of its assets: warehouses (logistics blocks), shops, offices and «hives» (warehouses exclusively for online sales). This makes it one of the Spanish companies with the largest presence in the AECO sector (architecture, engineering, construction and maintenance). It currently has more than 1,600 shops, 16 logistics blocks, 3 hives and several office centres in Spain and Portugal.



Stores



Warehouses



«Hives»



Offices



Legacy

Mercadona's mission is to be able to offer its customers a total shopping basket within a sustainable agri-food chain. This means building suitable spaces for this purpose, where digital transformation becomes essential. Processes and technology go hand in hand, seeking to develop a single source of information that facilitates traceability in the transition from the design phase to the construction phase and from there to operation and maintenance.

**With Onfly, they have found a way to have a content manager as a repository, in which they are able to manage standardisation and parameterisation criteria while being accessible to all their teams.**



**Victor Malvar**, IT project manager and promoter of the digitalisation project at Mercadona explains why he trusted in BIM&CO's vision and technology proposal.



## Background and need

In 2018, Mercadona detected the need to standardise its design processes, taking into account that we had teams participating in different types of projects (shops, warehouses, offices...), with common information management criteria (suppliers, logistics, maintenance...). The company decided to digitise this activity (a process in which we are still immersed) and decided that one of the first steps was to define the parts (type objects) that formed part of our models and plans.

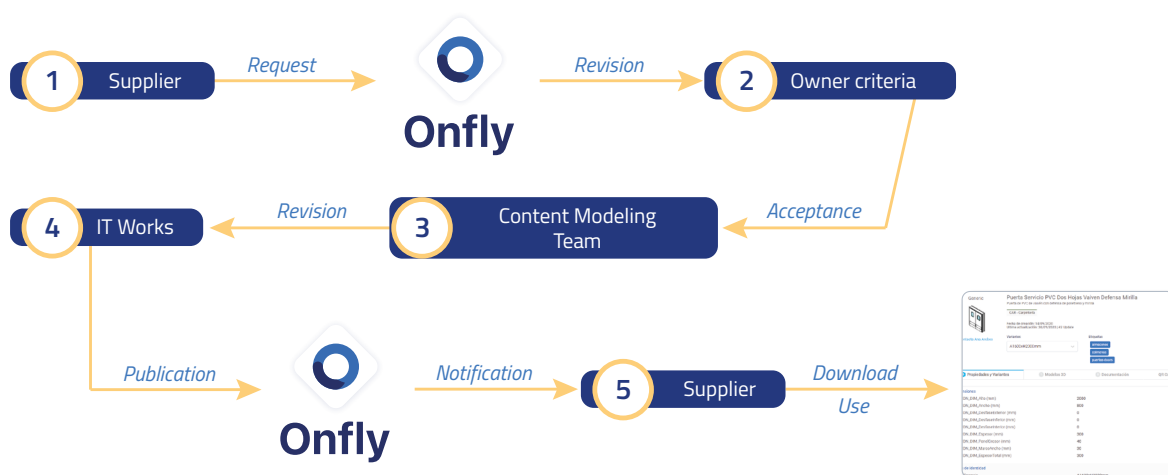
## The objective

With Onfly, Mercadona has a common space in which to store the objects used in the projects in which BIM methodology is used, thus facilitating the management of the entire procedure from the creation of new content to the maintenance and updating of this information base.

## Implementation and workflow

The Onfly space for Mercadona is a cloud repository managed by Mercadona's internal BIM team and at the same time maintained by the consultancy Wisebuild, chosen to accompany Mercadona in its BIM implementation.

The large number of users involved in a project, in addition to the number of simultaneous projects that Mercadona has to deal with, requires the establishment of a clear and agile process for the generation of new objects. From the moment the need for a «new object» is generated until it is created and inserted into a model, a series of steps must be followed to guarantee the maximum quality of the content generated.



Mercadona, in order to materialise this workflow, relies on Onfly, a technological solution that enables the established procedure to be materialised. This procedure, in summary form, is described below:

On detecting a need for an object that does not exist in the database, an external or internal Mercadona user makes a request through a form integrated in Onfly for requesting content.

In this form, all the information relating to the object is defined: the project for which it is intended, the date for which the object is generally needed, the modelling software, the LOD, units, etc. It is also possible to associate documentary information and a set of properties previously defined in the company's classification.

The account manager receives the request and, after analysis, refers and assigns it to the project modeller, who, in turn, generates the object according to the specifications initially required.

Once the object has been created, the modelling team uploads it to Onfly and notifies the IT Works manager to review and validate it before publishing it in the library. Once the object has been published, the user who requested it is notified through the Onfly platform via the internal chat so that he/she can download it and insert it into the project. In this way, Mercadona

ensures both the functional quality of the new object (design OK from the business side) and its informational quality (OK from the IT side). By Mercadona's own protocol, the review is carried out outside the Onfly space with the IT team, but in a more traditional engineering scheme, the review is carried out internally on the collaborative platform.

## Time saving

In addition to the content request, which is essential for streamlining processes between teams, the solution offers a wide selection of filters to quickly find an object: from software extension, classification, tags, but also by specific property. The difference in time spent searching between a regular solution, such as a server, and searching using Onfly is significant.

According to the Association for Information and Management AIM, a project manager spends an average of 7.5 hours a week searching for information without finding it.



It was necessary for Victor Malvar's teams not to waste time searching for an object, and for this information to meet the company's requirements:

*«In the case of Mercadona, knowing that it is very difficult to measure and know these times exactly, it is indeed essential to know that we have a single repository of objects used in our BIM projects and that Onfly allows us a simple search based on different criteria, also taking into account that we have standardised the nomenclature of these objects.»*

## Conclusion

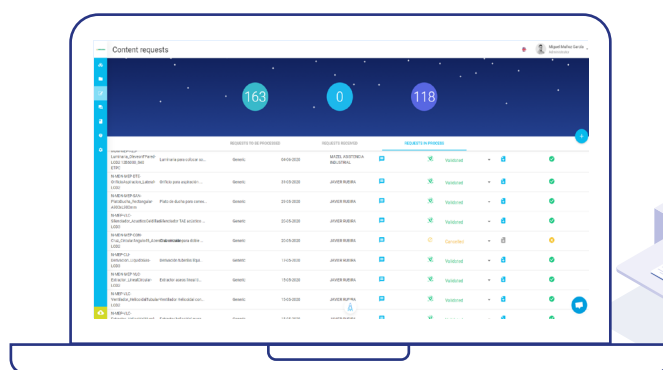
Mercadona is immersed in a process of global digital transformation of the company, and this transformation includes its activity around the construction sector.

To this end, and bearing in mind that Mercadona covers the entire life cycle of the assets it designs, promotes and maintains, the company has set itself several objectives around the objects (families, blocks...) it uses in the aforementioned processes and which must be the basis of these:

- Standardisation: all objects made with the same criteria (from the business point of view) containing the necessary parameterisation for their adequate reading in the different applications used in Mercadona (with the criteria of IT).
- Requests, additions and controlled maintenance of objects: to ensure consistency with the above.
- High accessibility and controlled distribution: both for internal and external teams.

For this, Mercadona relies on BIM&CO and its Onfly solution as an ally and strategic solution.

*«For those involved in a project, the most time-consuming activity is finding and adding the right BIM object to the project. With Onfly, we improve the ergonomics of our BIM library and allow us to comply with internal quality control», adds Victor.*



[www.onfly.io](http://www.onfly.io) | [www.mercadona.es](http://www.mercadona.es)

