ICT Improves Collaboration & Standardizes Processes with IMAGINiT

The Organization

Over its 60+ year history, **International Cooling Tower** (ICT) has become North America's market leader in industrial cooling tower engineering, procurement, and construction of new solutions and in the modification of aftermarket towers. Its construction-driven engineering practices contribute to its success in providing industrial process, chemical, oil and gas, renewable, and power facilities throughout the world with custom cooling systems.

The Challenge

Need for Process Standardization

Historically, ICT assigned a single engineer to work on a project from start to finish. They worked in Autodesk® AutoCAD® software and independently developed standards that helped them efficiently complete their projects. The designers and engineers, some with 15+ years at ICT, used parts that worked well when just one person worked on the design.

As projects became more complex and deadlines tightened, ICT started assigning design teams to projects and found that their individual preferences slowed progress.

"ICT is committed to delivering projects on time and on budget," said Mitch Nicholson, design manager, ICT. "We recognized that processes that had worked well in the past needed updating and standardization, so we started looking for a solution."

The Solution

Teaming with IMAGINiT for Software and Implementation

"Based on IMAGINiT's history of working with ICT to identify and implement Autodesk solutions to our technology challenges, we reached out to them," said Mitch. "We also looked at a competing software company."

"IMAGINiT listened to our needs and demonstrated potential software solutions. We determined that Autodesk Vault provided the central repository we needed for storing standard parts that the team members could access, and we decided to move from AutoCAD to Autodesk Inventor for 3D programming and process automation," said Mitch. "IMAGINiT recommended that we subscribe to the Autodesk Product Design & Manufacturing collection, which contains the two products we wanted plus many other tools. We confidently moved ahead with the collection."

With the decision made, IMAGINiT worked with the IT professionals within ICT to implement the software and set up the server, as well as helped the company secure the appropriate licenses and train the end users.

"While our initial need was for Inventor and Vault, the collection gives us access to so many powerful tools that will help us work together as a team to achieve our goal of being a one-stop-shop for our customers," said Mitch.

The Results

Better, More Consistent Designs

"Working with the IMAGINiT team to transition our systems to Inventor and Vault was definitely the right decision," said Mitch. "All our designers and engineers are fully onboard with the changes, and they are enjoying the powerful features that allow them to work together and collaborate on solutions to our customers' complex cooling challenges."

ICT now benefits from:

- An extensive library of standard cooling parts stored in Vault that enables multiple designers to work on the same project without the risk of using the wrong part and causing costly and time-consuming mistakes

- Reduced design cycle times, more exploration of design options, and streamlined manufacturing processes by using Inventor software for 3D mechanical design

- The elimination of many tedious tasks that have now been automated by using the iLogic functionality within Inventor

"With these news tools, ICT delivers better designs in less time," said Mitch. "Our designers and engineers enjoy collaborating with colleagues and responding quickly to customer requirements and changes. They are helping us outperform the competition and maintain our position as one of the market leaders in industrial cooling."

Solutions Beyond Software
IMAGINiT Technologies, a division of Rand Worldwide, helps architects and engineers become more proficient in the use of 3D technologies to design, develop and manage complex engineering projects faster and more cost-effectively.

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