How **SMC** provided a winning experience for their customers with Technicon

Challenge

As a complete manufacturer of mechanical components, including actuators, valves and air preparation units, SMC offers over 4,000 basic products with millions of variations to meet the complex and diversified needs of customers worldwide.

SMC's ultimate goal is to have other manufacturers "design-in" SMC's products as part of a larger assembly. SMC's typical customer is an engineer working on a design, with a demanding set of product specifications and qualifications. As SMC expanded its global reach and product line, delivering rapid design support and information to its customers became increasingly difficult.

Summary

Since 1959, SMC Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of pneumatic and electrical automation products, has harnessed the latest technology to produce world-class products and provide solutions for the most complex manufacturing processes. With over five decades of experience and service, SMC has established a product line synonymous with quality, reliability and superior technology.

Why They Chose Technicon

"When we decided to implement an online product information system, we investigated many vendors. We looked at what it would take to develop the product information, to integrate the system with our existing operation, and what the customer experience would be like. We found Technicon had advantages in all these areas."

"Technicon was the company that best understood managing product content. All the standard configuration vendors were proposing custom-coded, 'rules-based' projects. But Technicon's product didn't require a major development effort. Bottom line, we had the system in production fast."

— Steve Hoffer, SMC's E-Tech Group Leader & Marketing Manager —









24/7 Availability

Since partnering with
Technicon, SMC offers
customers multiple tools to
locate the best SMC product
for their needs 24/7 on their
website, www.smcetech.com.
The site offers multiple
detailed product views,
including both 2D and 3D
models, with all relevant
product information. All
documentation, specifications,
drawings and CAD files are
available electronically in realtime.



Big Winners: SMC's customers

SMC"s online tools help solve design calculations and guide the product selection and specification process, allowing customers to customize and configure products to their unique requirements. Product selection that once took days is now done rapidly and reliably online. Every month, tens of thousands of CAD files are downloaded into customers' designs.









Free up SMC's salespeople

Routine tasks such as downloading files and explaining product specifications that previously tied up SMC's sales team are now handled automatically on the website. As a result, the sales team can focus their expertise on unique applications of SMC's products, adding more value to their customers.

SMC's market research indicates over 90% of these design-ins on their website turn into orders.

