



Verdantas Integrates Four Companies into One CAD Standard

The Organization

Established in 2020 by the combination of four well-established, people-focused consulting companies, **Verdantas** is an engineering, science, and planning firm dedicated to making the world a better place. Each of the four companies brought a legacy of excellence, a reputation of honesty and integrity, and a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and collaboration. Together, they are experts in the environment that make a positive impact through:



Engineering Services	Environmental Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural Engineering & Architecture • Geology and Geotechnical Engineering • Hydrology, Hydraulics, and Fluids (HHF) • Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and Automation • Process Engineering • Site and Roadway Civil Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessment and Remediation (EAR) • Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) • Natural Resources and Environmental Planning (NREP) • Digital Solutions and Insights • Sustainability

The Challenge

"While all four companies shared a focus on the well-being of its employees, clients, and communities, each had its own way of doing things, and they each followed their own CAD standards. Some were formalized and others were not," said Mike Handlin, senior project designer at Verdantas. "To successfully integrate the four entities, we needed to implement consistent standards by the rollout of the new unified company, which was just six months away."

Recognizing the enormity of the challenge and that their internal CAD Standards team couldn't do it themselves while maintaining client responsibilities, they decided to turn to an external service provider. Two of the four companies had successfully worked with IMAGINiT for Autodesk CAD products, training, and support for years, so Mike and Sam, staff engineer and CAD manager at Verdantas, gave their account manager a call.

The Solution

An IMAGINiT team of subject matter experts in CAD, AutoCAD Civil 3D, and change management met with the Verdantas team to gain a thorough understanding of their needs. Together they developed a solution that delivered the best options possible for their tight timeline. “The goal was for us to have functional standards that worked for everyone when Verdantas opened for business,” said Mike. “We would then spend a year working within the templates to maintain and improve them, and in year two, look at making adjustments based on each team’s specific needs.”

The comprehensive solution followed IMAGINiT’s TakeAIM methodology, a proven consulting and implementation methodology that mitigates failure risks and ensures accurate project deadlines, predictable workloads, accurate budgets, high adoption rates, and effective user training. Here are highlights of the solution:

- 1. Project Planning** – Understand and communicate what is expected of each party involved in the project
- 2. Autodesk Civil 3D Optimization Planning** – Gather, evaluate, and document existing standards, define a consistent and efficient CAD standard, and create custom styles and settings within Civil 3D
- 3. Civil 3D Optimization** – Build Civil 3D template file containing 15 different content libraries, including AutoCAD, General, Surface, Alignment, and Profile
- 4. Existing Template Layer Migration** – Migrate approximately 1,200 layer names to the new layer naming standard
- 5. Training** – Instructor led, online seminar to provide staff with highlights of changes to the CAD standards as well as changes to the legacy template files
- 6. Project Review** – Review project outcomes and provide additional recommendations

With the plan in place, Mike, Sam, and an IMAGINiT CAD expert spent a week together determining core settings that would enable anyone to work on any project from any location, then going through tens of thousands of files in a Civil 3D Optimization Planning Workbook, piece by piece, and making decisions on which standards to use going forward. “The leadership at Verdantas trusted us to make these decisions and reach out to key stakeholders when necessary. This empowerment, combined with the support of our IT Department and Network Administrator, Joe Goerlitz, made the process possible,” said Mike.

With the decisions made about the standards, the IMAGINiT team built every style and setting, in conjunction with continued dialog with the Integration Team at Verdantas, translating the older styles into the newly created standards.



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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.

The Results

When the Verdantas brand launched, integrating all four companies, the CAD Standards were in place. "It was a herculean feat," said Mike. "Throughout the whole process, IMAGINiT never wavered in their commitment to make it to the finish line with standards that would work for everyone. There were many late night and weekend calls from both parties."

Currently in year two of their plan with the initial four companies, Mike and Sam are working with CAD managers to identify and implement changes needed for their specific departments as well as four additional companies that have joined the Verdantas team.

"We worked as a team with IMAGINiT," said Sam. "We identified needs, addressed challenges, solved problems, etc. Because everyone stayed positive, committed, and respectful throughout that stressful six-month project, we built a strong bond."

That bond has set the stage for working together as Verdantas continues to evolve. For example, the company has subscribed to and implemented companywide the use of IMAGINiT's ProductivityNOW e-learning platform as well as Knowledge Smart, a web-based skills assessment system to help them measure the software capabilities of team members and identify specific training needs.

Have mergers and acquisitions left you in a similar situation? [Contact us](#) to learn how we can help.



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