

Idé-Pro Skive A/S

Reduces design time by up to 30% with CATIA PLM Express and ENOVIA SmarTeam



Idé - Pro

Overview

■ Challenge

Idé-Pro Skive A/S needed to expand its business by bringing high quality innovative products to its customers and prospects faster

■ Solution

The power of CATIA PLM Express geometric modeler gives Idé-Pro Skive the freedom to rapidly design a prototype in many different ways thereby improving the quality of its designs

■ Benefits

Idé-Pro Skive designers increased their capacity for innovation and their ability to successfully meet their customers' aggressive deadlines



"With CATIA PLM Express we know exactly the amount of time we need to solve a problem and we have confidence that we will be able to supply our customers with the highest quality prototypes".

Morten Nors, CEO, Idé-Pro Skive A/S

Leading supplier of prototypes and plastic parts

Idé-Pro Skive A/S, located in Skive, Denmark, is an 80 employee-strong leading supplier of aluminum prototype molds, injection-molded plastic prototype parts, and plastic parts in series for low volume needs. It is also a consulting company that can provide technical assistance to its customers or even manage their projects from A to Z.

Idé-Pro Skive was founded in 1994 by Tommy and Morten Nors. At that time companies were not focusing on making prototypes before entering the series production phase. The founding brothers had a revolutionary idea, which was not only to make prototype molds but to make them out of more cost effective aluminum, not steel. "Injection-molded plastic parts, made from our aluminum prototype molds, have exactly the same characteristics, surface finish and quality as those made with traditional steel molds," said Morten Nors, CEO, Idé-Pro Skive.

The company also needed to work with design data generated by each of its customers. It therefore decided to use a customer's native design data to create the prototype mold irregardless of what CAD system the customer was using. To do this, they installed, in-house, the same software as its customers eliminating the need for converting design data to machine readable data. But there were limitations in these design systems and Idé-Pro Skive decided to use one system to handle its entire design and machining process.

Using the power of CATIA to solve all design issues

Idé-Pro Skive chose CATIA PLM Express for all its design and machining needs because it covers all the different disciplines in the company. The role-based approach of CATIA PLM Express as well as CATIA's powerful and flexible geometric modeler gives its engineers the freedom to approach a design from many different angles. "By using CATIA PLM Express, our engineers



are more creative and innovative because they can design from an engineering point of view and not have to worry about the inner workings of the software,” said Mogens Albaek, Sales Manager, Idé-Pro Skive.

A complete design and manufacturing process

Idé-Pro Skive designs an aluminum mold using CATIA PLM Express, creates the NC program with CATIA – Multi-Axis Machining, manufactures the mold in-house and creates the plastic prototype part using plastic injection molding. “Our customers come to us either with an idea of what they want or with a completely defined part in 3D using their design software. We then import this data into CATIA to design the aluminum mold,” said Morten Nors.

Once the 3D model is obtained, Idé-Pro Skive uses CATIA to create the NC program. The CATIA NC data is then post processed using post processors from its partner CENIT for creation of the NC machine code. Idé-Pro Skive decided to take advantage of CENIT’s experience in this area rather than create the postprocessors itself. Strong integration between CENIT postprocessors and CATIA NC code makes CENIT postprocessors an attractive solution.

CATIA PLM Express: an all-in-one flexible solution

CATIA PLM Express combines the power of CATIA’s design excellence with ENOVIA SmarTeam’s collaborative product data management. “Whenever you have the freedom to design the way you want, it is easier to precisely estimate the time needed to design and the time needed to perform NC programming and NC machining,” said Morten Nors. “We would lose business if we had to sit for days trying to work out a problem” he adds.

With CATIA, Idé-Pro Skive engineers have confidence that they will be able to solve any type of problem. Overall design time is reduced by 20% to 30% making design alternatives easy to find with CATIA in a very short amount of time. In this way, Idé-Pro Skive engineers are able to focus on creating surfaces of the highest quality.

Idé-Pro is currently implementing ENOVIA SmarTeam to handle the quotation process in a secure way. It needs to make sure that the part and all its updates, which are sent by the customer, can be identified and associated to the right version of Idé-Pro Skive’s quotation. It also needs to ensure that its engineers always work with the right level of the part geometry when they start to produce the mold and to ensure that documentation quality and security is up to par.

Focus on CENIT

CENIT offers full Product Lifecycle Management - from first design through final production and maintenance - based on DS products complemented by its own CAA solutions.

CENIT renders services to customers worldwide through more than 600 employees in Germany, the US, Switzerland, France and Romania - as well as through its extensive network of partners such as Idé-Pro Software & Engineering A/S.



“CATIA PLM Express has lowered our development costs since it takes us less time to do a job than before. This has a positive effect on our business.”

**Mogens Albaek, Sales Manager,
Idé-Pro Skive A/S**



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