

Digital tool management brings efficiency increase at Velan – TDM manages Velan tools North American wide

Velan produces a broad range of steel valves in 4 plants in Canada. The high product diversity causes a tool stock of over 9,000 items. Daniel Pagé had in 2003 the idea of getting more efficiency in the tool crib. Now, Velan is using TDM software for managing the tool cribs and the ordering processes. The tool cribs are connected and Velan gains a lot of synergy as the ordering processes are visible now.

9,000 items need to be managed

That last sentence may give us a clue why Velan needed the help of TDM Systems. They manufacture “a broad range of types and sizes of steel valves.” If you ask Daniel Pagé, Supervisor of CNC programming and TDM Applications “How do they do it? The



That's how Velan managed the crib before: by using register cards



Velan Adareg
Cryogenic Control
Valves for Liquid
Helium at 1.8°C above
absolute zero, specially
designed for the
world's largest particle
accelerator at CERN,
Geneva.

answer is: “With over 100 CNC machines, with a diversity of over 90 %”. Half of the machine jobs are milling the other is turning. That explains the extraordinary tool stock of 9.000 components! And why every one of the 4 plants in Montreal is doing its own purchasing. Daniel Pagé puts it this way:” The loss of efficiencies in the ordering process and the increasing loss of the overview of our tool stock forced us to do something”.

What does TDM?

TDM is a software for managing tools and data company wide. With its centralized data base TDM supports tool data like geometry, feeds and speeds and supplier data for all company divisions. The TDM software modules also support the user with specialized functions in the crib, the presetting, on the machine and in the nc-programming.

A comprehensive solution is provided with TDM software

That's the reason why Velan started with TDM in January 2003. Daniel Pagè has dedicated himself to the project and with support of the TDM team; he gave TDM a company wide validity in Canada and USA. All four plants in Canada are now using TDM, and he just started last December to introduce TDM into the plant in Vermont. Every single plant of Velan in Montreal is still doing its own ordering and manages its own tool crib, but with TDM Velan have won a tremendous increase in efficiency.

Cost savings due to common ordering processes

Before TDM, all tool cribs were without any connection. Now, they have the possibility to share tools if an emergency comes up, for example. "And more important is the gain of synergistic potential in the ordering process," according to Mr. Pagè. Now they are able to put orders together, which puts them into a better position to their tools suppliers, which in turn brings better discounts. The hard savings are enormous and TDM has paid for itself many times over, concludes Mr. Pagè. But money is not everything! The descriptions of their advantages with TDM are many as well as the



Daniel Pagè's target was to bring more efficiencies in the tool cribs and ordering processes for all Velan plants in Canada and the USA.

worker's motivation plays a big role. With TDM, Velan has been able to improve that part as well. TDM has abolished the old "register card" game. TDM manages all tool crib data now digitally. And work has become more efficient and comfortable.

Optimized tool planning causes saving potentials

The next cost saving potential at Velan is in the NC-programming. With over 10,000 different programs per year and 13 NC program users, Velan could gain tremendous savings by using TDM's CAM Interfaces. Velan introduced CATIA V5 two years ago, and with the use of TDM's interfaces, cost savings have not yet reached the end! The TDM CATIA Interface would allow them to use geometry data, feeds & speeds, cutting conditions and collision data to be loaded into CATIA and assures them of absolutely adequate data, accessible to everyone and would deliver therefore more efficiencies in the programming.



New motivation at Velan: working with TDM makes it easier

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