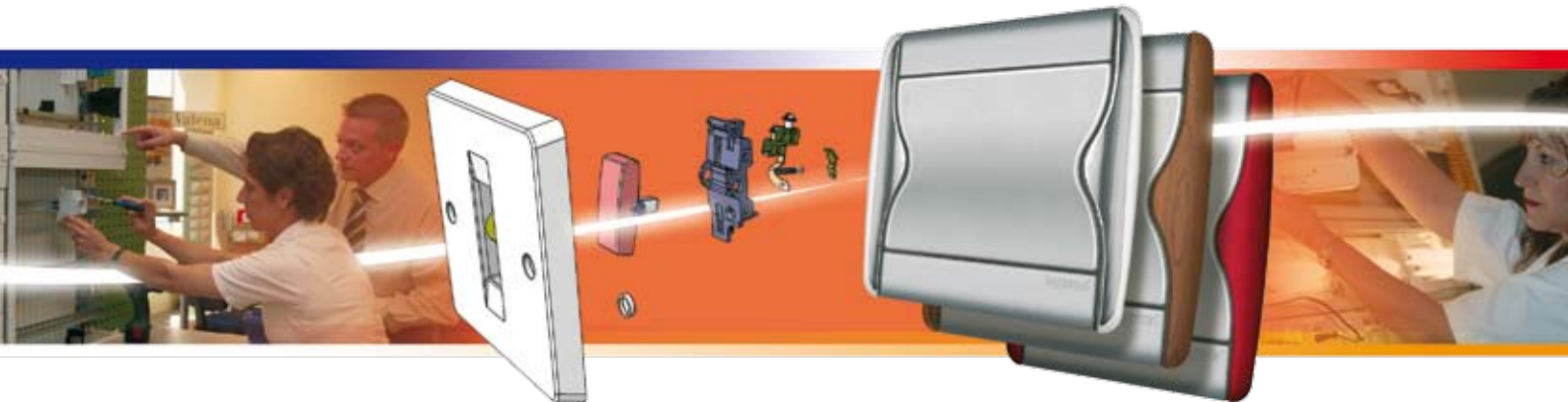


Legrand

Bright Ideas for innovation using CATIA V5



Overview

■ Challenge

To stay ahead of competitors, Legrand needed to launch new products or update existing ones with innovative designs and functions more frequently.

■ Solution

Legrand chose CATIA V5 because it covers all of Legrand's core processes better than any other CAD system.

■ Benefits

With CATIA V5, Legrand has cut product development time nearly in half.

An international group of SMBs

Legrand, headquartered in France, is a by-word for every thing electrical for the home: switches and sockets, cabling and circuit-breakers, fire and intruder alarms, and emergency lighting. Legrand provides products tailored to each of the 160 countries it serves, because in a world of globalization, electrical standards are one area which still remains distinctly different in each country. This ability to produce specialized ranges has made Legrand number one in its field.

Legrand managers describe the company as 'an international group of SMBs' (small and medium-sized business) due to over 100 acquisitions of companies around the world. Today, the Legrand portfolio comprises 20 brands supported by more than 1,800 designers in design offices around the

world. Add to that a fast-paced market driven by design innovation, and the result is a need for a reliable, fast solution for design.

"There is a market frenzy to launch new or updated product ranges more and more frequently, and enormous competition, especially from Asia, so we need new designs and innovative functions to lead the market," says Daniel Fargeaud, General Manager, New Product Marketing and Development, Wiring Devices Division.

CATIA V5 for Knowledge sharing

After intense benchmarking, Legrand chose CATIA V5 to help it reduce development time and drive innovation. "We shortlisted the best systems and then allowed each design office to test them all," notes Dominique Roussel, Group VP, Technical Management.

"To drive innovation, we needed to shorten development times from three years to 18 months. We have achieved this with CATIA V5."

Daniel Fargeaud, General Manager,
New Product Marketing and Development,
Wiring Devices Division, Legrand



“Admittedly, this made the assessment process lengthier, but once we had a consensus the implementation of the agreed product, CATIA V5, was fast and efficient.” Now, CATIA V5 has been installed on around half of Legrand’s sites, including its major design centers, with plans to implement the system on all sites.

With a great variety of new projects in highly technical areas, the co-engineering approach at Legrand is proving invaluable for sharing knowledge and reducing time-to-market in product development. “CATIA V5 helps us to verify our new product designs faster, and its realistic 3D rendering products enable us to educate our sales force before the product actually exists,” says Fargeaud.

Faster validation in 3D

By helping Legrand to unify data exchange among its many design offices and facilitate collaboration on joint projects, CATIA V5 enabled the company to shorten development times from three years to 18 months.

“The biggest advantage so far has been the ability to share our designs in 3D, which really speeds up our validation

processes,” says Pierre Monsel, CAD/CAM/PDM Manager, Legrand. Monsel also notes that CATIA V5 has been notably ‘bug-free’, with training and implementation both rapidly completed.

CATIA V5 answers Legrand’s needs for all its core design processes, including mold tooling and sheet metal design. CATIA V5’s openness with third-party applications is also an advantage. Legrand works with Zuken CADSTAR for its electronic components, and the CAA V5 product Q-Checker from Transcat, a diagnostic tool used by the IT support team to validate CAD models.

Although the company is enthusiastic about the benefits of CATIA V5 so far, it is setting the bar even higher for the future. “We would like to improve communication between everyone involved in the development process internally and our subcontractors, to enable us to be more reactive, leading to faster development times,” notes Fargeaud. Legrand’s vision is one of ‘electrical intelligence’ through innovative solutions and services. For a company that has such a clear-sighted vision of unifying its information systems, the sky is the limit.

Focus on Transcat

Transcat PLM is a subsidiary of Dassault Systèmes and a supplier of its PLM solutions. Used by more than 1,200 customers worldwide, Q-Checker - developed by Transcat - is the world leading solution for quality assurance in virtual product development.

With Q-Checker, companies:

- benefit from an OEM-proven, accurate and reliable solution
- ensure model reusability and avoid downstream repairs
- control quality standards throughout the entire design process.



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