

# MECANO ID

Communicating more efficiently with 3DVIA Composer



## Overview

### ■ Challenge

*MECANO ID needed to improve communication with customers and implement an easy-to-use tool to review projects.*

### ■ Solution

*MECANO ID added 3DVIA Composer to its existing CATIA implementation.*

### ■ Benefits

*With 3DVIA Composer, MECANO ID has improved communication and information sharing with partners and customers thereby boosting efficiencies and customer satisfaction.*



*“With 3DVIA Composer, creating technical documentation is faster, resulting in real productivity gains.”*

**Didier Mesnier**  
Managing and Technical Director  
MECANO ID



### Design and analysis specialist of aerospace equipment

MECANO Ingénierie et Développement (MECANO ID), based in Toulouse, France, provides industrial expertise in design, sizing, mechanical testing, and management of multidisciplinary, predominantly mechanical projects. With most of its customers in the aeronautics, space, and embedded systems sectors, MECANO ID specializes in complex projects such as the configuration of telecommunications satellite repeaters.

In an effort to streamline its development process, MECANO ID wanted to better communicate with customers. However, it lacked a tool for easy product review. “MECANO ID specializes in the design and analysis of sophisticated embedded aerospace and spatial equipment,” said Didier Mesnier, managing and technical director, MECANO ID. “We need to communicate complex ideas to our customers.”

### 3DVIA Composer for more effective project review

MECANO ID provides services to scientific agencies such as France’s CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifique) and CNES (Centre national d’études spatiales). One project involves heating samples of Martian soil to extract amino acids in order to determine if life once existed on the planet. The heating device, which consists of a small cup containing samples and a heating system, was designed using CATIA. In order to create light-weight 3D versions of its CATIA designs for product review and technical documentation, MECANO ID chose 3DVIA Composer.

“Thanks to 3DVIA Composer’s information exchange and animation capabilities, it was easy to explain in a very clear and visual manner to the customer how the sample preparation device works,” said Mesnier.



### Project follow-up and protection of IP

“Since 80% of development costs depend on decisions made in the first 20% of a project,” said Didier Zely, project leader, MECANO ID, “it’s essential that information reaches participants as early as possible. 3DVIA Composer makes it possible to share our envisioned solutions with all of the participants very early on in a project. This tool offers real decision-making efficiency.”

Through tele-conferencing, MECANO ID provides its partners with the latest status of a design. “We are very satisfied because 3DVIA Composer is easy to use, accessible from all workstations thanks to the free 3DVIA player, and allows us to rapidly call up very detailed views,” said Mesnier. “The protections integrated into the exchanged executable files such as the blurring sensitive areas and/or restricting use to a defined timeframe make it possible to protect know-how.”

### Increased efficiency in document creation

MECANO ID is a major supplier for satellite manufacturer Thales Alenia Space and is responsible for configuring its telecommunications satellite repeaters. The design office uses 3DVIA Composer to prepare the integration phase performed

by the integration room. Paper plans have been entirely replaced by 3D computer plans. The volume of information that is available is greater, more reliable and can be obtained more quickly. “With 3DVIA Composer, creating technical documentation is faster, resulting in real productivity gains,” said Mesnier.

### Expanding use of PLM

Today, MECANO ID has 16 expert designers using seven CATIA workstations and this number is expected to double in 2009. The company is enhancing its offer by developing a composites service. “There is considerable demand in the space sector for composite materials, especially those that are carbon fiber-based and whose properties meet the needs for stiffness as well as dimensional stability versus temperature and mechanical resistance,” said Mesnier.

“Twenty years ago, no one ever imagined that telecommunications satellites would be created the way they are today with PLM solutions like CATIA and 3DVIA Composer,” explained Mesnier. “Tools using new 3D technologies have made it possible to design what couldn’t have been designed before.”

“3DVIA Composer makes it possible to share our envisioned solutions with all of the participants very early on in a project. This tool offers real decision-making efficiency.”

Didier Zely  
Project Leader  
MECANO ID



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