

From spark plugs to adaptive cruise control

Global engineering network ensures Tier-1 supplier's continuous innovation

ROBERT BOSCH GMBH

Siemens PLM Software

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▶ Business challenges

Continuous innovation
Shorter time to market
Resource optimization

▶ Keys to success

Grouping products into reusable base models and versions
Use of WAVE technology
More than 20 database servers all over the world

▶ Results

Faster generation of new product models
Cost savings
Higher flexibility
Closer to customers

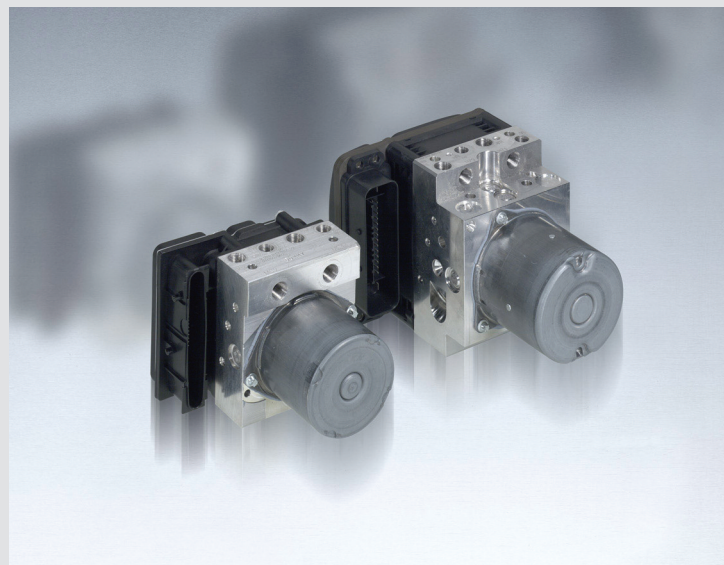
A tradition of innovation

For more than 70 years Robert Bosch GmbH has been a leading global automotive supplier. The Chassis Systems Control (CC) department develops and produces electronic brake control systems such as anti-lock brakes (ABS), traction control (ASR) and the electronic stability program (ESP). Of the approximately 17,000 employees, there is a high percentage of research and development positions.

At Bosch, performance, development, production, distribution, marketing, purchasing and customer service have been integrated into a tight global network aimed at achieving continuous innovation. To accomplish this, high-performance software tools and IT infrastructure are imperative, which is why the Chassis Systems Control department relies on the products and knowledge of its product lifecycle management (PLM) technology supplier, Siemens PLM Software.

"Our activities are based on efficient worldwide coordination and the communication of everyone involved in the development process," explains Dieter Morio, manager of the CC division in the sector of technical IT, Bosch. "International teams work on a standardized process together with our customers from the automobile industry. System applications are carried on-site close to the customer. The same applies to production. We manufacture all over the world according to uniform production and quality standards. This ensures consistent high-quality products worldwide."

The CC department uses NX™ design software for product development as well as Teamcenter® digital lifecycle management software for information management. The software solution runs on approximately 120 workstations in the department. Introduced in 1999, this solution was used for the development of the current ESP generation 8 (ESP8), among other things.



SIEMENS

Solutions/Services

NX

Teamcenter

Client's primary business

Robert Bosch GmbH is a leading global automotive supplier.
www.bosch.com

Client location

Stuttgart
Germany

"We have come to recognize the multi-site solution of Teamcenter as a very good, high-performance tool. We value it as the best system available on the market for us."

*Michael Schlitzkus
Engineering Department
Bosch C.C.*

Global data pool

The current ESP was defined as modular from the beginning. Its purpose was to ensure that all basic models for the American, Asian and European markets could be re-used with minimal effort, to position new products on the market as quickly as possible. To achieve this, the CC department, together with the IT engineering support of Bosch, established a global data pool for worldwide development based on Teamcenter. From this collaboration, a software environment was developed that performs like a system.

A worldwide development team was formed to first define the base model and drawings for the ESP8 series. These were to be independently usable by each customer, from a motorcycle to a light-duty truck. Customer-specific requirements were supplemented during the distribution of base models to the individual markets. The uniform CAD base models with associated drawing sets for the ESP8 series were defined using NX. For example, they showed that a pump housing made of aluminum has different holes to fit different components. In this way it is possible, in theory, to make about 2,500 versions from six raw parts and 24 base parts. Since the basic structure of the ESP8 series was defined using NX WAVE technology, variations made with the customized additions and adjustments are always associatively linked, through so-called WAVE links, with the respective base model.

Based on this, efforts to generate new base models as well as the corresponding drawings have been significantly reduced. Generation of versions or their modifications can also be done faster. A database with worldwide access to current data was imperative for product development, according to the goal of implementing international simultaneous engineering.

Worldwide simultaneous engineering

The department established a PLM concept using Teamcenter with separate servers for individual regions and different time zones (where it worked with replicated data), to achieve optimum loading times at all locations. Data adjustments are required to more than 20 worldwide databases, most of which are Windows-based. The data adjustments are made at night for regionally limited simultaneous engineering environments. As night varies globally, Bosch decided to perform the automatic synchronization at the end of the working day of the affected time zone for a maximum delay of 24 hours. Furthermore, synchronization can be activated manually at any time. Bosch is also considering synchronization when a component is saved.

Bosch CC requires high performance, easy operation, low administration and low complexity for the simultaneous engineering environment. "We are a significant step closer to our goal using the Teamcenter solution that has just been installed," says Michael Schlitzkus, of the Bosch CC engineering department. "Furthermore, we can access the global data pool in which only one master record is present."

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