



## Bernard van Lengerich Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co.KG

HiCAD and HELiOS: The BvL Group opts for a combination of both systems

An important sector in the agricultural industry is the design and production of agricultural machinery. The Bernard van Lengerich Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG – part of the BvL Group – fulfils these tasks with customized solutions for feeding equipment, unloading and animal bedding technology for stables. Other companies belonging to the group are the BvL Oberflächentechnik, which develops and builds various cleaning machines, and the BvL Elektrotechnik, a provider of electrical engineering and building automation services. The company group in Emsbüren, Germany, is a family business which is now in its fifth generation.



## REFERENCE REPORTS



“Drawings created with CAD programs also require a suitable management system. When we acquired HiCAD, we decided to combine it with HELiOS. Our decision was due to the fact that both systems are from one supplier and therefore harmonize perfectly, and also the fact that the ISD is a German software developer.”

Thomas Vietz, System Administrator, BvL Group

#### **A modular CAD-System for custom-tailored constructions**

The German company currently employs about 200 people, 16 of them work in the Engineering department, and 2 of them in prototype building. “We used to work with PC Draft in the past. When this program was no longer updated by the ISD Group, we switched to its successor, HiCAD”, explains Thomas Vietz, System Administrator at the BvL Group. Particularly extensive use was made by functionalities such as the variable Sheet Metal module and the large standard parts library of HiCAD. “The level of standardization is very high, that is, about 70-80 %. However, the re-use of parts is still being pushed forward” says the 48-year-old Vietz.

“A great challenge for our Engineering department is posed by the numerous variants resulting from the highly specialized products and solutions; but also by the fact that you need to face the competition of suppliers offering less complex and specialized products.”

#### **HiCAD and HELiOS: CAD and PDM perfectly harmonized**

Anyone who works in several business sectors at the same time requires, besides a fast and flexible CAD system, a reliable, transparent data management with the help of a PDM system. “When we acquired HiCAD in 1993, we decided to combine it with HELiOS”, says Thomas Vietz. “Our decision was due to the fact that both systems are from one supplier and therefore harmonize perfectly, and also the fact that the ISD is a German software developer.”

Another strong point was the possibility to interface HELiOS with our ERP system PSI Penta.” HELiOS is being used across different departments: In Engineering, Process Planning and Production, however less extensive in the Spare Parts Service. “Engineering data are approved in Process Planning, where it is decided whether the production of parts is feasible at all. The reason for this is that products exist in the form of maximal BOMs, and that, depending on the ordered variant, the final BOM will be assembled in the Process Planning department”, explains Thomas Vietz. The up-to-dateness of data in a process matters to the Cologne-born System Administrator to an equal extent, “since the Production sub-departments, most notably the Assembling department, relies on the Engineering data during their work – with the help of the HELiOS Viewer.”



Image: Thomas Vietz (on the left) in his office (© BvL Group)



Image: The company's headquarters in Emsbüren, Germany (© BvL Group)

### **Successful data transfer**

The legacy data from PC Draft could be successfully transferred. “For this purpose, data were prepared and transferred from the IBM database computer to HELiOS via script. Of course, the success also depends on the quality of the data that is available, so that the initial data transfer deserves particular attention. Where necessary, articulable findings that are difficult to transfer in automatic processes should be transferred manually instead”, as recalls Thomas Vietz.

### **Structured data organization and efficient support**

“Thanks to HELiOS, several engineers can now work on a project simultaneously. You can clearly see who changed what on the project and when – including effects on other products. This is an important factor for quality assurance”, says Thomas Vietz. When asked how long it took to structure the data, he answered: “The desired success could be achieved fairly quickly; however, one should bear in mind that data structuring is

a living process. Currently we are working on a restructuring of the projects. Also, new colleagues are recruited from time to time, and require training and a period of familiarisation“. And when asked whether this could lead to problems his answer was equally clear: “No. Fortunately, the ISD provides fast support, offers excellent training courses and always gives instant feedback in case of problems.“

### **Further expansion of automated workflows planned**

The greatest benefit of HELiOS consists for Thomas Vietz in the possibility to create article masters, the transfer of BOMs, the creation and tracking back of modified and derived drawings (aka index management) and the automatic generation of all production- and project-related documents. Graphical workflows, made possible by the PDM system HELiOS, are also in use at the BvL Group: “workflow for the constructions is relatively short, that is ‘In progress – Released’. In the future, we would like to expand it



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further and add the 'Checkup' status", announces the System Administrator. Also planned are an automated PDF/DXF transfer and training courses for new colleagues. "It would be great to have a HELIOS test license that would allow us to practice at home, since the downloaded version is only valid for a limited period", finally suggests Thomas Vietz.

As far as this request is concerned, the ISD Group will be working on a satisfactory solution and, in the meantime, refers to hired computer licenses.

#### In brief:

- > BvL Group
- > Industry: Mechanical engineering
- > Software: HiCAD and HELIOS
- > Services: Engineering, design and production of agricultural machines, cleaning machines, electrical engineering
- > [www.bvl-group.de](http://www.bvl-group.de)



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## Much more than just CAD and all from one single source

The ISD Group – one of the leading suppliers of CAD and PDM/PLM-solutions – develops innovative software for the complete process chain. With the help of our software products HiCAD and HELIOS our customers can realize the most demanding engineering tasks throughout all fields of industry. We are not just software developer, but also dealer and service provider with a specialist team for consulting, installation, training, and hotline. We provide you with our complete service portfolio – perfectly harmonized and from one single source. Short ways of communication and direct, uncomplicated contact are a matter of course for us.