



# CLAAS

Reaping the benefits of PLM with Dassault Systèmes' V6 PLM solutions

After benchmarking different solutions, we opted for Dassault Systèmes' ENOVIA V6 because it is faster, more stable, and has the most intuitive interface.



**Andreas Maehler**  
Responsible for global  
CAD PDM  
CLAAS

### Challenge

CLAAS needed to provide employees worldwide with up-to-date product information on a single platform.

### Solution

The company adopted CATIA V6 for design, ENOVIA V6 for global collaboration, DELMIA for robot programming and 3DVIA for interactive documentation.

### Benefits

The V6 solutions provide CLAAS with a unified platform for global collaboration, virtual simulation and end-to-end product lifecycle management.



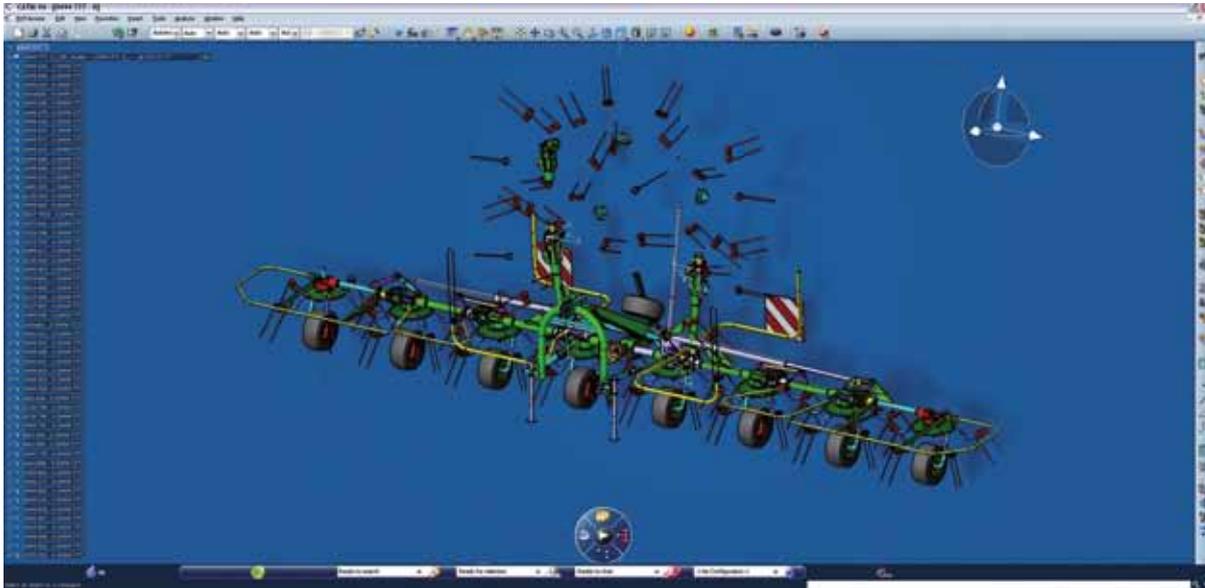
## Dedicated to making agricultural work more productive

CLAAS is one of the world's leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery. Founded nearly 100 years ago by August Claas, the company is wholly dedicated to providing the agricultural industry with solutions that make work easier, more productive, and more sustainable. CLAAS manufactures forage harvesters, balers, and combine harvesters, including the LEXION large combine harvester - the world's most powerful combine harvester - capable of processing up to 80 tons of grain and up to 100 tons of corn in one hour. In 2003, CLAAS expanded its product range to tractors when it acquired a majority stake in RENAULT Agriculture. CLAAS has over 9000 employees and 14 production sites worldwide.

CLAAS has always tried to stay ahead of its competitors by implementing the most innovative technology and software for product design and manufacture. "We adopted a 3D design approach with the Dassault Systèmes solutions in 1995," said Andreas Maehler, responsible for global CAD PDM, CLAAS. "Since 80% of our products are made of sheet metal, we established a close partnership with Dassault Systèmes with the aim of adapting our specific sheet metal needs to CATIA functionalities. We immediately benefited from an over 50% reduction in design time."

## Adopting the product life cycle management approach

As its business and product range grew, CLAAS realized that it could no longer manage project-level product data with information literally stored in as many computers as there were engineers. The company would have to address the total picture - a product's entire lifecycle, from design to manufacture, with product information residing in one place and accessible to all. "We analyzed all our processes and unfortunately found gaps which were slowing us down and creating a breeding ground for costly errors. Some of the areas that needed improvement were the integration of our global manufacturing BOM management and also our engineering change and release management processes," said Maehler. "After benchmarking different solutions, we opted for Dassault Systèmes' ENOVIA V6 because it is faster, more stable, and has the most intuitive interface."



CLAAS is an international company and our engineers in the US, India, Germany and Russia need to collaborate on product design. The CATIA V6 – ENOVIA V6 tandem enables this global collaboration between sites, suppliers, departments and systems such as SAP.

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Furthermore, we appreciate that CATIA V6, ENOVIA and DELMIA are highly integrated as are the new functionalities such as issue tracking, requirement management and document management," said Maehler.

CLAAS adopted CATIA V6 for all its design needs. "CLAAS is an international company and our engineers in the US, India, Germany and Russia need to collaborate on product design," said Maehler. "The CATIA V6 – ENOVIA V6 tandem assures global collaboration between sites, suppliers, departments and systems, such as SAP. CATIA also helps CLAAS to reduce our reliance on physical prototypes. Working and collaborating on a virtual design and emulating the virtual product before going to production saves CLAAS both time and money. Simulation reveals potential design errors that can easily be detected and corrected early on."

CLAAS creates all of its parts geometries in 3D and uses 3DVIA Composer to create documentation for assembly and training purposes. "Now we provide our shop floor with easy-to-understand 3D instructions for production and assembly. With 3DVIA Composer we can even produce 3D animations that teach our customers how to assemble, disassemble, or repair a part," explained Maehler.

DELMIA is used to program and simulate welding robots. "DELMIA uses the geometry we create with CATIA to develop the welding programs for our robots. This ensures data compatibility and associativity," said Maehler. In the future, CLAAS plans to implement DELMIA V6 for virtual product simulation to manage the company's production planning. After having started with DELMIA V5 to plan and organize assembly and welding robots, the company will now move on to V6 to manage new product manufacturing plans right from the start, in all its aspects, including material flow, assembly, offline programming and ergonomics.



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