

▶ **Invensys® Building Systems, Inc.**

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► organize, control and distribute product-related data.

Business Issues

Invensys Buildings Systems needed an efficient way to make and keep track of changes to its complex product line of heating and cooling control systems for commercial buildings. With more than 50,000 end products or components that must be managed to stringent product quality and business control standards, the company could not continue using a system based on hardcopy documents. The new solution needed to efficiently accommodate a product change and management process that involved 1,800 engineering changes per year.

To reduce costs, improve productivity and keep quality high, Invensys Building Systems chose to replace its paper- and microfilm-based systems with SSA Product Data Management (PDM).

The Company

Invensys Building Systems is a leading global supplier of heating, ventilation and air conditioning control systems, most of which are used in commercial buildings such as hotels, factories, airports and government offices. The company, a unit of UK-based Invensys plc, is headquartered in Loves Park, Illinois, USA.

The company manufactures more than 35,000 products, including valve bodies, valve assemblies, actuation devices and sensors, and interfaces and automated systems that link these products and other building systems together. The company has hundreds of patents for its product designs, has ISO 9001:2000 certification and a six sigma lean manufacturing process. Invensys Buildings Systems Loves Park has 600 employees and serves a global market through a network of sales offices throughout the world.

company -----	Invensys Building Systems, Inc.
solution -----	SSA Product Lifecycle Management
product -----	SSA Product Data Management
platform -----	Dell®
database -----	MS SQL 2000
industry -----	High Tech and Electronics
customer revenue -----	USD \$130M
employees -----	600
country -----	USA

What's Critical

Invensys Buildings Systems needed to eliminate the expense and inefficiency of its former hardcopy product document storage systems. “We had a microfilm vault that was only available when it was staffed,” explains Mike Crandall, engineering supervisor, Invensys Buildings Systems, Inc. “Users had to physically go to the vault in order to use it. This was expensive to operate, required a lot of space and added time to our product change process.”

The new product data management systems had to be online and accessible from any user’s computer terminal at any time and had to be capable of facilitating faster and easier product changes. “Over the course of a year, we make approximately 1,800 product changes,” Crandall says. “Unlike some companies that can sell large volumes of one or two products, our business requires us to sell thousands of product variations at relatively low volumes.”

With so much product change a normal part of their business, Invensys Building Systems needed a system that could minimize the cost of each change and manage a complex manufacturing environment where there are significant numbers of work process changes in addition to product changes.

Finding the Right Solution

Invensys Building Systems chose to implement SSA PDM, a module of the SSA Product Lifecycle Management solution. SSA PDM provided the capability Invensys Buildings Systems needed to efficiently make product changes and ensure that each change would be quickly and easily accessible to anyone in the organization, at any time. The drive for the original implementation was initiated by the company’s engineering function with support from the IT function. The installation was performed at the same time that Invensys Building Systems was upgrading its SSA ERP systems.

“It’s very good for viewing documents online and the integration between SSA PDM and SSA ERP is fantastic,” he continues. SSA PDM is enabling Invensys Building Systems to create a more disciplined approach to engineering changes and its overall manufacturing processes.

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—MIKE CRANDALL, ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR, INVENSYS BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

▶ streamline engineering-to-production processes.

Implementing Fast

“The conversion to the latest version of SSA PDM was a piece of cake,” Crandall says, adding that the change was done in virtually one day with no disruption to the business. “SSA Global provided training to our IT function and key users that ensured the process would go smoothly.” Training was important to the implementation and subsequent upgrade projects because Invensys Buildings Systems had to individually make changes to more than 200 computers.

Making it Pay

According to Crandall, having the SSA PDM solution up and running has helped the company significantly streamline the engineering change process. “We're doing more engineering changes than ever — 1,800 per year,” he says. “With SSA PDM, it's now much easier to make engineering changes and communicate them to the appropriate employees. We no longer have people running paper around the facility, making copies and going to the vault.”

“I can change something using SSA PDM and have it implemented on the manufacturing floor in an hour,” Crandall continues. “This just wasn't possible under the old paper system.”

The SSA Global solution has provided a wide range of business benefits to Invensys Building Systems. “SSA PDM is a good control system for our ISO audit requirements and a good quality control system for our business,” Crandall says.

He also lauds the reliability of the solution. “Since we implemented SSA PDM, there has been virtually no down time.

Forward Faster™ — Into the Future

Invensys Building Systems is evaluating ways to expand the reach of the SSA PDM solution. For example, drawings done by draftsmen and tool designers are currently stored on a different server and Invensys Building Systems is exploring moving these documents to SSA PDM.

The company is also looking at SSA Lifecycle Analyzer to expand its ability to understand the implications of product changes on costs, inventory, production schedules, cycle time and quality before they implement the change.

about SSA Global

SSA Global is a leading provider of extended ERP solutions for manufacturing, distribution, retail, services and public organizations worldwide. In addition to core ERP applications, SSA Global offers a full range of integrated extension solutions including corporate performance management, customer relationship management, product lifecycle management, supply chain management and supplier relationship management. Headquartered in Chicago, SSA Global has 63 locations worldwide and its product offerings are used by approximately 13,000 active customers in over 90 countries. For additional information, visit the SSA Global web site at www.ssaglobal.com.



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contact SSA Global

Global Headquarters

500 West Madison Street, Ste. 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661
+1-312-258-6000
+1-312-474-7500

Asia, Pacific & Japan

+612-9855-7100
+612-9855-7298

Europe, Middle East & Africa

+44-1276-417-200
+44-1276-417-201

Latin America (Brazil)

+55-11-5508-8800
+55-11-5508-8801

Latin America (Mexico)

+52-55-52-01-55-00
+52-55-52-01-55-00

www.ssaglobal.com

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