

Asyst Technologies reaps benefits of paperless product development

Windchill PDMLink helps Asyst energize collaboration, streamline workflows, and provide more comprehensive data to suppliers

Company Description

Asyst Technologies develops and delivers factory automation solutions for the protection, swift transport, high performance handling and efficient management of semiconductor wafers and flat panel display glass plates .

The Challenge: Needing to automate in order to better collaborate

Asyst wanted to more fully automate data and document creation and change management. They also wanted a true paperless process to track information and facilitate collaboration by providing more design team members with more visibility to project data during product development. Real time data and document access is crucial to meeting time to market objectives.

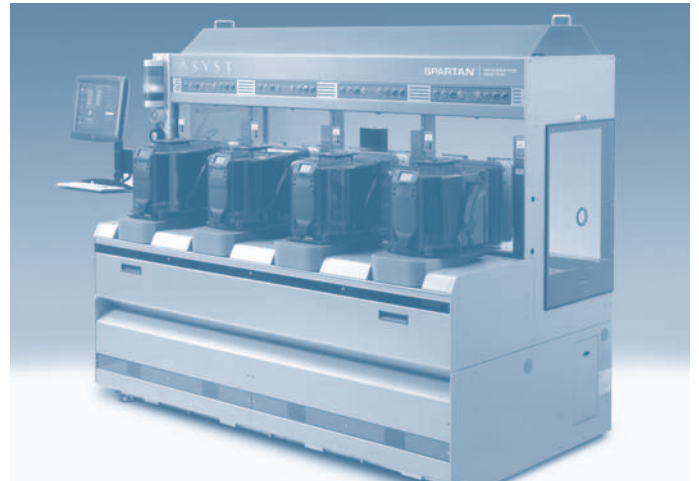
The Solution: Windchill PDMLink

Asyst chose to implement Windchill PDMLink to gain the benefits of real time data creation, online change management, and automated workflows, and to consolidate data and documents into a vault with secure access for authorized users. By enabling a paperless process, Windchill PDMLink is making product data more accessible to people within the company as well as key suppliers.

The Result: A much "cleaner" way of transferring data to a key supplier

By achieving a paperless process, Asyst has enhanced collaboration, reduced time to market, maintained data integrity and quality, centralized databases, and improved supplier collaboration. Having all information and processes documented electronically has been a key to accomplishing these goals.

Windchill PDMLink from PTC is helping Asyst Technologies provide a complete package of product data and documentation for the manufacturing of products such as its Spartan EFEM, a next generation, high-performance atmospheric equipment front-end solution. With its simple, unified design, Spartan delivers higher throughput, higher particle performance, optimized cleanroom space and lower cost of ownership.



Asyst Technologies developed its new Spartan EFEM next generation 300mm front-end automation solution. The use of Windchill PDMLink software from PTC has enabled Asyst to implement a true paperless product development process.

“With a paper-based process, to release a drawing, you had to print it out and take it to a manager and get it signed off. If a key person is not in that day, nothing happens,” Marchand said. “The Windchill PDMLink workflow gave us the capability to track everything online and reassign the signoff task to alleviate the roadblock. It lists all the engineering changes, who has to sign off or approve, and exactly where all the packages are at any point in time.”

– Keith Marchand, Sr. Corporate
Quality Manager, Asyst Technologies

PTC solutions power Asyst's entire process

Pro/ENGINEER is Asyst's corporate standard for product design, and the company is a long-standing user of PTC's product data management solutions. These systems enable Asyst project teams to visualize concepts, refine designs, and engineer complete products electronically. And because Asyst outsources the manufacturing of its products, a key requirement is comprehensive product data and documentation management.

"In simple terms, data management is about "making sure engineers all work together to make the most functional, comprehensive product possible," Marchand said. "I need to know what you are doing in case you are making changes that are incompatible with what I am doing."

If there are 10 engineers working on the same project, the opportunities for mistakes increase exponentially. "We need to be able to see each other's data," he noted. "Without a good PDM solution, you may not discover serious product problems until late in the process, when changes can be very expensive."

With PTC's product data management solution, each team member is notified whenever a new version of a part is checked in. "If you modify a part, the system says 'Wait, there's another version of this part that has been checked in by someone else.'" Marchand said. "A team member has ownership of a part and is assured that no one else is changing it."

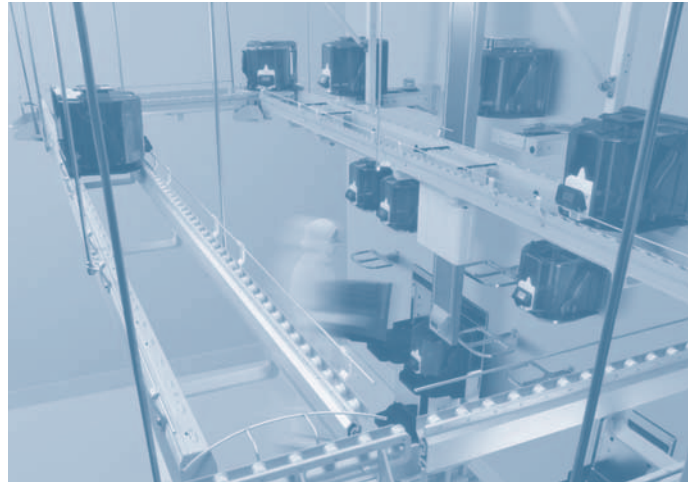
Releasing data with only three mouse clicks

Asyst chose to move to Windchill PDMLink to gain the benefits of immediate company-wide data access, online change management, automated workflows, and the ability to consolidate data and documents into a vault with secure access to authorized users.

Because Asyst engineers were so accustomed to using Pro/INTRALINK, there was concern about the learning curve in moving to Windchill PDMLink. To minimize training requirements and allow engineers to concentrate on engineering, Asyst implemented a customized gateway between Pro/INTRALINK and PDMLink, so that, from the engineers' perspective, there was little or no change in the process

"All they need is about a half hour of additional training, and now with only one extra step, everything goes into PDMLink," Marchand says. "It's all fully automated, so that an engineer can do his or her design work and with just a few mouse clicks send the data to PDMLink for release."

Departments using PDMLink include engineering, product management, document control, manufacturing engineering, finance, supply chain management, field service, product support, software development and Q&A, as well as key suppliers.



Because Asyst outsources the manufacturing of its products, a key requirement is comprehensive product data and documentation management. This makes manufacturing such products as the company's FasTrack Continuous Flow Transport more efficient and error-free.

"Without it we would not have made the deadlines"

The advantages of leveraging PTC's product data management tools have even become clear to Asyst's management.

"The tool has allowed the engineers to truly work concurrently on a single project. On the Spartan project alone, better than 10 engineers and designers worked at the same time with many overlapping areas of responsibility. They were able to effectively share files and update others on changes very easily,"

Asyst Technologies is justly proud of its long record of innovation, inventing many of the systems that power the manufacturing of semiconductors throughout the world. It only makes sense that they are also on the forefront of reaping the benefits of product data management.

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