Customer Success Story

„Through workshops and experience of XPLM with other customers many pain points in our engineering process could be solved.“

**JÜRGEN KROPPEN,
HEAD OF IT**

THE CUSTOMER

Kiepe Electric GmbH is a German manufacturer of electrical traction equipment for trams and trolleybuses, as well as air-conditioning and heating systems, and conveyor device components.

THE PROJECT

The aim of the project was the integration of PROCAD PRO.FILE with ELCAD and Engineering Base.

THE CHALLENGE

An Integrated BOM information management in PRO.FILE is necessary.

ABOUT THE CUSTOMER

Worldwide, Kiepe Electric is synonymous with innovative and competent solutions in the field of traction equipment for electrically driven vehicles. The modification of existing vehicles with state-of-the-art technology, the assembly and commissioning as well as the marketing of electrical components for the public transport sector complement their range of services.

In the bulk goods industry Kiepe Electric has a solid reputation as a leading manufacturer of high-quality equipment for the monitoring and control of conveyor systems.

From modest origins in the German state of North-Rhine-Westphalia, Kiepe Electric has grown into a player of international status. Meanwhile, approximately 700 employees work at the headquarters of the Company in Düsseldorf and at the subsidiaries in Europe and overseas.

Day by day, their knowledge goes into the development, design and manufacture of state-of-the-art products of the utmost quality. Since 2017 Kiepe Electric has been part of the internationally operating Knorr-Bremse Group.

CUSTOMER PROBLEMS

- Due to the long history of Kiepe, fundamental data cleansing was necessary.
- Manual BOM creation was time-consuming and prone to errors.

REQUIREMENTS

Kiepe Electric required a uniform database with an automated transfer of the BOMs into Pro.CAD PRO FILE.

In detail it means:

- Articles basic data are only created in one system.
- A comparison of the articles basic data between the PLM system and the ECAD database.
- Transfer of ECAD parts lists to the PLM system.
- Transfer of certain attributes of the BOM to the PLM system.
- Displaying BOM comparisons and differences in the basic article data.
- Generation of all relevant documents and transfer to the PLM system.
- Linking of bills of materials and documents to the existing articles in the PLM system.
- Recognize and react to the workflow status of the article or BOM in the PLM system.
- Automatic revision of BOMs and documents in the PLM system when changes are made in the ECAD system.

THE JOURNEY

- Workshop for recording the requirements
- Creation of a benchmark specification with the basic requirements
- Implementation of a first interface
- Testing and gaining experience
- Completion or correction of the requirements
- Implementation of the adaptations
- Recurring process

IMPLEMENTATION

The first interface between PRO.FILE and ELCAD was installed in 2010 and the first integration solution between PRO.FILE and Engineering Base has been implemented in 2016. The interface between those ECAD Systems and PRO.FILE required a re-thinking of existing internal processes. New workflows had to be introduced and very precise work had to be done. But since a new ECAD system was introduced in parallel, the training effort was relatively high.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

The solution is used in development, technology and project planning. The advantages of an interface between those ECAD systems and the PLM system are:

- A uniform database and no double maintenance, that saves a lot of time

- Avoiding of „copying errors" due to an automatic transfer of BOMs into PLM system, instead of previous manual BOM creation

- Automatic generation of required documents with automatic uniform filing in the PLM system. That saves double time, when creating the documents and when finding them later by other departments