

ChangAn Suzuki Cuts CAD Licensing Costs by 80% with Enterprise Visualization Solution



Chongqing ChangAn Suzuki
Automobile Corporation
Chongqing, China
www.changansuzuki.com

Industry:

Automotive

Annual Revenue:

US\$857 million

Employees:

More than 3,000

Oracle Products & Services:

AutoVue 3D Professional
Advanced

Oracle Partner:

ArFlex Corporation
www.arflex.com.cn

Shanghai SIMP Information
Technology Co., Ltd

“Oracle’s AutoVue 3D Professional Advanced has brought greater reliability, efficiency, and convenience to our business. We can view and share Computer Aided Design (CAD) documents in a secure Web environment, which has improved productivity and helped accelerate our time to market.” – Lian Mingyuan, Director, Technology Management, Chongqing ChangAn Suzuki Automobile Corporation

Chongqing ChangAn Suzuki Automobile Corporation was founded in 1993 as a joint venture between China’s Chongqing ChangAn Automobile Corporation, Japan’s Suzuki Automobile Corporation, and a third Japanese automotive firm. With registered capital of \$190 million, the company manufactures up to 200,000 cars and 200,000 automotive parts every year.

Following the lead of other major automotive manufacturing companies, ChangAn Suzuki implemented an enterprise visualization solution in 2004 to aid in the design and drafting of cars and spare parts. The company upgraded to Oracle’s AutoVue 3D Professional Advanced in December 2007.

Oracle’s AutoVue enterprise visualization solution has provided users with the ability to view, review, and share business and technical documents via the Web in a more secure fashion. This has enabled ChangAn Suzuki to improve collaboration across the organization and with its partners, eliminate version control issues, unlock highly technical data to non-CAD experts, and cut the time needed to access and view documents by eliminating costly file conversions. AutoVue has also helped reduce CAD software licensing fees by 80% by eliminating the need to use expensive authoring applications such as CATIA to view 3D CAD files.

Safe, Secure Document Sharing

Prior to implementing AutoVue, designers and manufacturing technicians had to use CAD workstations installed on specific computers dispersed throughout ChangAn Suzuki’s facilities to view documents. This method of collaboration was soon considered unproductive and cumbersome, especially as the

Key Benefits:

- Enabled Web-based access to CAD files and equipment guides
- Gave users the ability to access, view, and review over 4,000 documents per month
- Cut CAD software license costs by 80%
- Accelerated document reviews by more than 50% and access to documents by 80%
- Ensured the security and confidentiality of proprietary designs

company had to spend thousands of dollars buying new hardware and software licenses to accommodate the increasing number of users.

With AutoVue 3D Professional Advanced, engineers, designers, and manufacturing personnel now have secure, real-time access to hundreds of document types via a Web browser. The streaming features of the AutoVue technology ensure that original documents, with proprietary data, are never transferred or downloaded to the client desktop for viewing or annotation. This means that while outsourced partners can view and digitally annotate documents, local copies of the files are not stored on user machines, protecting ChangAn Suzuki's intellectual property from unlawful access.

Improved Collaboration

AutoVue enabled access to large 3D models that were uploaded on ChangAn Suzuki's intranet without requiring the original CAD design creation software. Users can simply view and review the models using AutoVue's native document viewing, make digital annotations, and enjoy real-time collaboration capabilities via their desktops and laptops. This allows users from the engineering, quality assurance, procurement, manufacturing, and post-sales departments to view and review more than 4,000 models every month.

Team collaboration has improved. Design teams can easily mark up documents, exchange ideas, and resolve problems in real time during online collaboration sessions. The software also ensures that teams work on the latest version of a document, preventing version control issues and ensuring that business decisions are based on accurate and reliable data. With AutoVue, ChangAn Suzuki has also shortened design and manufacturing cycles, and accelerated time-to-market.

Efficient Document Processing

Prior to implementing AutoVue, CAD documents and equipment guides had to be converted into a neutral format that was accessible to all non-CAD users. This process was not only time-consuming and labor-intensive; it also introduced costly errors into key documents.

AutoVue's native document viewing eliminated the need for file conversions, allowing technical and non-technical users alike to instantly access the full intelligence of CAD models and technical

documents. Manufacturing personnel, for instance, can easily manipulate and interrogate files, create exploded views, generate cross-sections, and mark up documents. As a result, ChangAn Suzuki has accelerated document review times by more than 50%.

Reduced Licensing Costs

The Web version of AutoVue has enabled ChangAn Suzuki's information technology team to free time and resources previously devoted to the support and maintenance of CAD workstations. With AutoVue, CAD software license costs have been reduced by 80%. Further savings are derived from improved efficiencies.

Why Oracle?

ChangAn Suzuki evaluated a range of viewing solutions before choosing Oracle's AutoVue.

"AutoVue supports a wide range of formats, including 2D and 3D CAD files, Microsoft Office, and graphic documents," said Zhang Kai, project manager at ChangAn Suzuki. "It is secure and so easy to use that even non-CAD experts such as staff in our procurement and manufacturing departments can use it to view and review documents.

"AutoVue also offers easy integration with third-party systems, which has allowed us to integrate the software with our Product Data Management (PDM) system," he added. "The integration has made it possible for our teams to view documents in AutoVue directly from the PDM, accelerating access to documents by 80%."

Implementation Process

ChangAn Suzuki engaged Oracle partners ArFlex Corporation and Shanghai SIMP Information Technology to implement AutoVue 3D Professional Advance in August 2004. The company upgraded the system in December 2007. ChangAn Suzuki is currently considering extending the application to its supply chain network, possibly over the next two to three years.

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