

Volvo uses witness to optimise efficiency and productivity in gent plant



Volkswagen

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Volkswagen is a German automobile manufacturer headquartered in Wolfsburg, Lower Saxony, Germany. Volkswagen is the top-selling and original marque of the Volkswagen Group, the biggest German automaker and the second largest automaker in the world.

In order to maintain, and continuously improve upon its credentials for efficiency and quality in manufacturing, Volvo relies upon simulation technology. Simulation supports major business decisions through mapping out scenarios in a virtual environment. In taking this approach, Volvo's Gent plant can build business cases and de-risk decisions prior to investment being committed.

Simulation and Forecasting Technology role

Improve efficiency/quality, decision making support, mapping scenarios, virtual environments, risk management

Sector
Automotive

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LANNER Case Study

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Results

For the last 10 years, Volvo Cars Gent has used WITNESS software from business process improvement specialist Lanner to respond quickly and accurately to the business when there is a need for capacity for a new model, changes in production, new regulations, and maximising productivity (and overall profitability) of the plant.

Across the entire plant, inefficiencies and areas of capacity can be identified. This allows the plant to make decisions against risk and avoid escalating costs. It is critical to have the ability to make decisions before committing investment and WITNESS really is an invaluable tool in making a very decision about the plant. Whether it is production of a new car, or the efficiency of a particular area such as welding, painting or final assembly.

Volvo is continuously benefiting from advanced functionality. In particular, spreadsheet-like information & results relating to a given project, in the touch of a button. A comprehensive de-fogging functionality also allows the user to see the work collaboratively with the Lanner development team to build in the future.

Volvo takes into account and many of my suggestions have been included in the design. We can work collaboratively with the Lanner development team to build in the future.

For our simulation solution is deeply functional, flexible, responsive, and easy to use. We are using a best-in-class simulation solution and continuously conclude that WITNESS is a solution which meets our needs.

Tom Madou, FEA Simulation Engineer, Volvo Cars Gent

Background

With a turnover of Euro 4 billion, Volvo's plant in Gent, Belgium, produces over 200,000 cars each year including the Volvo S40, V50, C30, S60 and the new XC60, and employs 4,500 people. The plant is one of two main Volvo assembly plants and exports 70% of its production to the US, European countries and Japan.

As automotive manufacturing faces eroded margins, escalating consumer expectations, competition from low-cost countries as well as the ongoing legislative landscape, Volvo's Gent plant has to operate at optimum levels of efficiency while maintaining high quality standards at all times.

In fact, the plant was the first non-Japanese company to be honoured by the Japan Institute for Plant Maintenance for its focus on quality and efficiency winning it the European Excellence Award, the Special Award and the Award for World Class Achievement.

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Related Product

WITNESS
The only simulation solution that gives you the power of the real world.

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