

John Sparks uses Activault to design his ocean going ROVs. The ease of collaboration and the saving in time is...

Another Activault Success

Design Work Requires Coordination

John Sparks has been designing underwater vehicles for over 30 years. These Remotely Operated Vehicles, or ROVs, are “flown” by operators on board ships but submerged to significant depths on the ocean floor. They have been used in several world-renown discoveries such as finding the Titanic. John has been involved in the development of ROVs for most of his career. His work requires coordination with others on the design team as well as exacting design parameters, since failure can be catastrophic and very costly.

For more than five years, John has been using SolidWorks for design and Activault, advanced file management software to manage his multitude of SolidWorks files.

Collaboration Is Key

John says it best. “Being a daily user of Activault for an excess of 5 years I have found it to be a powerful, versatile & adaptive time savings tool that has aided in the design and development in a collaborative company wide basis. In my thirty plus years of subsea product development I have used several other PDM systems that required both more on the capital expenditure side as well as complexity of usage.”

Simple To Learn and Use

Activault delivers on a promise of being extremely simple to learn and use, so designers can focus on the engineering challenges rather than the daily challenges posed by the PDM system. No one wants a PDM system that requires an extraordinary amount of “care and feeding”. However, most PDM systems are just that — they typically require a full time person just to turn them on. And once you’re running in the PDM environment, there’s a number

of things that can go wrong, so the design time may actually be longer using a system versus the “shortened design time” promised by most PDM vendors.

The key to a successful PDM implementation is to learn from others. Many users, after implementing a system claim that PDM stands for “Pretty Darn Mad”.

Unsurpassed Support

Activault is different. Consider the requirements of managing files in a native SolidWorks environment, with multiple engineers in multiple locations all collaborating on many interrelated files and problems seem inevitable. However, in John’s words, the software and customer support have been “unsurpassable”.

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John Sparks
ROV Designer