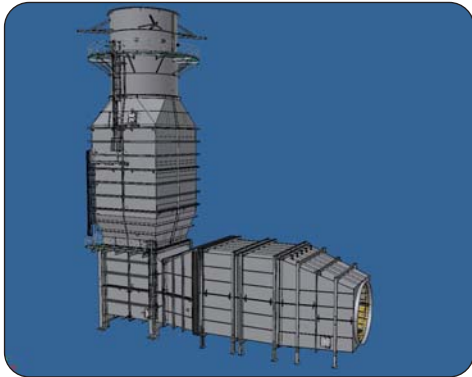


ATCO-HIGGOTT-KANE Implements Autodesk Inventor®



GE Frame 7FA
Exhaust Silencing System

→ THE CLIENT

Higgott-Kane has been supplying custom engineered silencing systems to power and process industries since 1977. They are a full service acoustical consulting, engineering, and construction company specializing in industrial Noise Management™ and have become an industry leader in acoustical consulting and industrial noise control. Their products, services, and industry solutions ensure that industrial facilities comply with all applicable noise regulations in a timely and cost-effective manner.

→ THE CHALLENGE

Higgott-Kane wanted to find a solution that would increase their productivity, sharpen their competitive edge, and earn an even greater return on investment in product design when compared to vanilla AutoCAD®.

→ DESIRED OUTCOME

"By using the most current manufacturing design technology, we believed our employees would have the ability to respond quicker to client needs, use the most efficient way to solve problems, and achieve our business objective of producing satisfied clients," stated Supervisor of Design Drafting, Vince Balge.

→ THE SOLUTION

Higgott-Kane was using AutoCAD for their design needs and started to research AutoCAD® Mechanical Software. Higgott-Kane knew the future was in 3D Solid Modeling, and after IMAGINiT demonstrated Inventor, they were immediately interested in implementing the product. Within a month of the first release of Autodesk Inventor, Higgott-Kane began implementing the 3D modeling technology into their design processes. They knew that the migration from 2D to 3D tools would make their design work more efficiently and accurately, producing better overall design quality and fewer errors. Vince noted, "IMAGINiT provided Inventor Fundamentals Training, which helped us through the initial growing pains of the transition. I would rate their training as excellent; we continue to choose IMAGINiT for our ongoing Inventor training and professional development within our organization."

→ ACTUAL RESULTS

Vince also noted, "Working with Autodesk Inventor has improved my overall job satisfaction. I really enjoy working in 3D and getting visual feedback on my designs. When I see the sum of the parts in 3D, I see issues and opportunities along with all the details associated with the complexity of the design."

"I am very happy with the product; so much so, that it's hard for me to pick the features I like best. Being on subscription has kept us up-to-date on the latest technology. Every new release brings enhanced features and as soon as I see the new functionality, I get very excited and think about ways I want to implement it into our design processes," added Vince.

One particular example of time savings for Higgott-Kane was the design of square to round lined transitions. This process typically took five weeks to draw in AutoCAD, and another two weeks to check for accuracy. "We now do it in Inventor in about two weeks; and in 3D modeling, you know it's right!" affirmed Vince. Because the software updates all associated drawings and assembly components automatically, they also save additional time if modifications are needed. "If we're using 2D flat AutoCAD, modifications might require days or weeks to complete, where as Inventor modifications are dynamic," noted Vince.

Higgott-Kane has experienced a decrease in the number of field call backs regarding incorrect fittings. The three-dimensional modeling capabilities offer huge advances in error checking. "The 3D modeling technology of Inventor gives us life-like representation of the designs. I can see the structural composition and the way parts fit and move together, along with the performance impact of characteristics such as size, thickness, and weight. We are positive that what we model in 3D will go together and fit properly in the field. This has been a huge benefit for us," concluded Vince.