

KEYMED

CASE STUDY

KeyMed has become firmly established as an international leader in the manufacture and supply of specialised medical and industrial equipment. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Olympus Corporation, Japan, KeyMed is one of the principal parts of the global Olympus network, with specific responsibility for the development and manufacture of medical equipment and industrial products worldwide.

KeyMed has replaced the mix of 2D and 3DC packages with SolidWorks software to design endoscope equipment for hospitals worldwide.

KeyMed uses SolidWorks software, including COSMOSWorks analysis and SMARTEAM PDM applications company wide - from research and development to manufacturing. Together, these applications enable the company to streamline the product development cycle and get its medical products into doctors' hands faster. KeyMed uses 30 licenses of SolidWorks to design support equipment for a range of endoscopy systems that enable doctors to see internal organs during surgery. Their products include vacuum pumps, sterilisation cases and ultrasound cleaners, as well as equipment trolleys that carry life-saving utensils down hospital corridors.

SolidWorks greatly increases KeyMed's productivity, shortening the product development lifecycle and reducing design errors.

"Our products' ergonomics are complex in terms of shapes and mouldings, and our previous design software was not flexible enough to model all the surfaces" said Ian Hallett, KeyMed's Medical Research and Development Manager. "We also wanted to expand our CAD use within the engineering department and throughout the entire company. Our existing software wasn't suitable for that because it was too difficult to use. SolidWorks is clearly a more advanced design package offering superior modelling capabilities, a powerful user interface and extensive integration with third-party packages".

With SolidWorks, KeyMed can visualise what a product will look like on the computer screen instead of machining actual parts, an expensive and time consuming process. The company uses PhotoWorks to produce photo realistic images for internal feedback on its designs. e-Drawings enable KeyMed to email designs to its parent company in Japan, replacing in-person meetings that added months to the product lifecycle. The company also uses e-Drawing share designs with its 200 suppliers, allowing them to view 3D CAD files as a simple, self-executing programme without downloading additional software. Suppliers can review and mark up the drawings and e-mail them back to KeyMed in record time.

KeyMed also uses COSMOS FEA solutions which allows them to calculate how its products will perform under shock and loading vibrations, such as those that come from orderlies pushing trolleys through hospital doors.

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