

RT Logic-Avtec

Easier and Efficient BOM Revision Management for Design of Complex Data Communications Products

Customer

Real-Time Logic, Inc. (RT Logic), a Kratos Company, is a leading provider of innovative products for ground stations, satellite test equipment and satellite operations, with solutions used in over 80% of America's space missions.



Challenge

Complex Products with Manual Engineering Change Process

RT Logic-Avtec generates a large volume of complex engineering products. This environment inevitably results in a high quantity of engineering changes. The company needed a way to accurately track all of the Bill of Material (BOM) changes and have the ability to view previous revisions with a clear history of the product's lifecycle.

Initially, they tried to track and manage their engineering change/revision process with Excel spreadsheets. Managing detailed change information in this manner did not provide the security or history tracking that RT Logic-Avtec needed to effectively manage product revisions, and the manual entry of information was highly susceptible to data inaccuracies. The company also tried using their existing ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system to manage revisions. Tracking different revisions of the same BOM in their ERP system proved to be time-consuming and tedious, requiring the creation of a different BOM part number for each revision which did not have any relation to each other.

Goal

Accurate, Easy, Structured BOM Revision Management

RT Logic-Avtec knew that they needed a Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) system to meet their goals. Designed to manage detailed engineering information, a PLM system would allow the product development team to clearly see and understand what the actual changes are from one product revision to the next as well as implement staged workflows for review and approval on all changes in order to ensure accuracy, accountability and create structured processes.

Quick Facts:

Company

- RT Logic-Avtec

Industry

- SATCOM and Communications

Key Benefits

- Eliminate tedious revision management in ERP (70% time savings creating, tracking, updating)
- 95% reduction in time spent searching for data with centralized product record
- 100% improved data accuracy through automated processes
- Traceability on all engineering changes
- More efficient and effective configuration management
- Guarantee manufacturing is building to the correct BOM
- Clear view of product's lifecycle

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RT Logic-Avtec

Prior to selecting a solution, the company evaluated several PLM vendors. They chose the Empower PLM solution from Omnify Software primarily due to its rich feature set. “We selected the Empower PLM solution because it offered many of the features we were looking for such as robust search capability, flexible workflow processing, easy import and export of data, and report generation,” stated a Configuration Manager for RT Logic-Avtec. “In addition, the tool would allow us to create different groups such as Users, Engineers, and Administrators, to control access to certain information.”

Customer Success

Automated BOM Revision Management with PLM Leads to 100% Improvement in Data Tracking and Accuracy

All of RT Logic-Avtec’s product data is now centralized and managed within Empower PLM. The company met its primary goal of eliminating the tedious task of managing BOM information within their ERP system which required multiple BOM part numbers for all BOM revisions. With features such as complete BOM revision control, audit trails, BOM comparisons and full BOM hierarchy views, Empower PLM makes RT Logic-Avtec’s BOM management process much easier and more efficient. All BOM revisions now exist solely in the Empower PLM system with only the current released BOM residing in ERP.

Managing revisions in Empower PLM has not only resulted in about 70% time-savings compared to managing this process in their ERP system, it also ensures that manufacturing is building to the correct BOM everytime. “By keeping all revisions in Empower PLM, I no longer need to worry about changing effectivity dates on individual BOM parts in our ERP system in order to maintain current and prior revisions,” said the Configuration Manager. “This not only keeps the BOM in ERP visually clear and simple to read, it has helped us to improve revision tracking and accuracy by an outstanding 100%.”

The Empower PLM workflow engine, which provides both parallel and serial processing, has streamlined RT Logic-Avtec’s engineering change and release process. Using stage-based workflows helps RT Logic-Avtec to assure appropriate personnel have verified and approved all product changes, permitting only necessary users to view, change, accept, and/or reject changes at any particular point. This guarantees that the change information is accurate and ready for the next phase and creates better resource efficiencies by only including appropriate team members on their specific stage(s).

Revision history, markups/redlines, and full audit trail functionality provide RT Logic-Avtec with visibility into who, what, where, when and why on all changes made to any item in the Empower PLM system. The company has implemented formal release processes for new part requests and BOMs, and is now able to formally document the changes to existing parts and BOMs. This provides RT Logic-Avtec with the structured processes, history tracking, and accountability they were looking for to meet their product development goals.

“Empower PLM has helped improve our configuration management processes tremendously. Having the ability to easily bring up past product revisions, retrieve all information and associated documentation, such as datasheets and vendor quotes, and see all redlines has helped to reduce the time spent searching for information by at least 95% which allows me to do my job much more efficiently and effectively.”

**The Avtec product line has become part of RT Logic since this story has published.*