



## Remec Broadband Wireless Synchronizes U.S. and Philippine Facilities and Reduces Engineering Change Cycle Times by 46%

### Customer

Remec Broadband Wireless is a unique supplier of integrated microwave and millimeter wave subsystem solutions for the telecommunications market. The company designs and manufactures products that operate throughout the radio spectrum, from RF to microwave and millimeter wave frequencies, specializing in complex, high performance point-to-point radio modules and Outdoor Units (ODUs).

### Challenge

*Synching Local and Offshore Facilities*

Remec Broadband Wireless was challenged with arduous paper processes that had to be replicated at two facilities. Print out a hardcopy Bill of Material (BOM), redline the BOM, scan it in, distribute via document control to obtain signatures, and return to engineering for review. This constituted the engineering change process at Remec Broadband Wireless. Complicating the problem even further was the fact that one facility was located in the United States and the second was a manufacturing facility in the Philippines- which added even more resource burdens and posed a high potential for user error. "In some instances, one person or site would do the engineering change correctly and the other would do it incorrectly so the changes were not in sync at both locations," stated Karla Spitz, Document Control, for Remec Broadband Wireless. "We needed to more effectively track changes in our products throughout our growing global company."

### Goals

*Single Repository for Product Data*

The company wanted to implement a system for paperless capture of Engineering Change Orders (ECOs) with online approvals and complete tracking of all changes as well as maintain links to CARs (Corrective Action Reports), FAIs (First Article of Inspection), and TDAs (Temporary Deviation Article), for any given part. A single repository for product documentation and controlled product revisions across remote sites was extremely important in order to get everyone in sync.

### Quick Facts:

#### Company

- Remec Broadband Wireless

#### Industry

- Telecommunications

#### Company Size

- Small to Medium

#### Key Benefits

- Streamline engineering change process across local and remote sites
- Access to current and accurate product data for all sites
- Affordable, robust PLM system for start-up
- Direct integration with existing **Intuitive ERP** system
- Reduce engineering change cycles by 46%
- Eliminate arduous paper-based system
- Eliminate replication of error-prone data



### Integrated microwave and millimeter wave subsystem solutions

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# CUSTOMER SUCCESS

As a fast growing company, Remec Broadband Wireless looked for an affordable, scalable Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution that also integrated tightly with their existing **Intuitive ERP** environment to avoid displacement of their current technology and provide one common database that sent data to and from the ERP system.

“We were ultimately looking for the best bang for the buck in a PLM solution,” said Michiel Van Meurs, IT Manager for Remec Broadband Wireless. “When we were introduced to Omnify Software we were amazed at how robust the solution was with a price that could be easily justified.”

## **Omnify Solution**

*Automated Engineering Change Workflows with Electronic Signoff*

Prior to implementing Omnify Empower PLM, tracking ECOs was laborious both in recording the dates at each step and actually updating the spreadsheet for each ECO. It was a completely manual process and therefore subject to the vagaries people can create. Empower PLM provides Remec Broadband Wireless with a central, secure location for their global team to access and manage product documentation and engineering changes.

Empower PLM has helped to eliminate the scenario of having several sets of hard-copy redlines, that may or may not contradict each other, to add to an ECO. Remec Broadband Wireless created ECO workflows within Empower PLM that apply to all of their prototype and production work and created workflow stages to capture the activity that happens as well as the necessary electronic approvals.

“Because Omnify Empower is so flexible we can continue to refine the workflows, add more functionality to our ECOs and continue in our effort to reduce the cycle time as well as devise new ways to be even more automated in the ECO flows,” said Ms. Spitz. “One way we plan to enhance our workflow process is by adding a notification stage to the TDAs in order to notify the Responsible Engineers (via adding their names into that stage as required) that the TDA is in work, rather than manually routing the hard copy and emailing them to let them know it’s in work.”

Addressing the companies’ goal for a common database that tied into their Intuitive ERP environment, the Omnify Empower PLM system is integrated with both the U.S. Intuitive ERP database and the Philippines Intuitive ERP database. Data from approved change orders in Omnify Empower PLM is sent to one or both Intuitive ERP systems (depending on parameters set on each change order) ensuring both design and manufacturing teams have access to accurate product information.

## **Customer Success/ROI**

*46% Reduction in ECO Cycle Time*

As a leading Broadband Wireless technology provider, improving and streamlining their product development processes supports the companies focus on meeting the increasing needs of the growing customer base of communications industry leaders.

Since implementing Omnify Empower PLM, the product data inconsistency rate at Remec Broadband Wireless dropped dramatically. “Previously, we had about 20% inconsistencies and we now have less than one half percent,” said Mr. Van Meurs. “In addition, our ECO cycle time has gone from 39 days to 22 days- about a 46% reduction.”

# CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Omnify Empower PLM has made it easier for remote sites to communicate with each other and the company is able to better track data and easily identify bottlenecks for faster resolutions.

“Omnify has become an integral part of our suite of business tools,” added Mr. Van Meurs. “It has helped us begin to achieve our product development goals by allowing for more accurate data tracking, supplying a common database for all of our product documentation, providing workflows that everyone accesses the same way, and being a common repository for changes that are to be reviewed by a global team. It has contributed to more effective communication between our sites and that helps everything run much more smoothly and quickly.”

*Omnify Software provides business-ready Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions that help manufacturers streamline their product design and manufacturing processes.*