SIEMENS
Ingenuity for life

Automotive and transportation

Küster Automotive

Automotive component specialist use Polarion to achieve SPICE Level 2 while fully addressing OEM Customers' RIF requirements

Product

Polarion

Business challenges

Achieve Automotive SPICE Level 2

Manage complex process with specifications authored using Microsoft Office

Meet OEM customers desire to exchange specifications using RIF format

Effectively manage requirements changes

Keys to success

Install a unified application lifecycle management solution that addresses Automotive SPICE, RIF and change management needs

Results

Quickly completed smooth, hassle-free implementation

Achieved Automotive SPICE Level 2 compliance

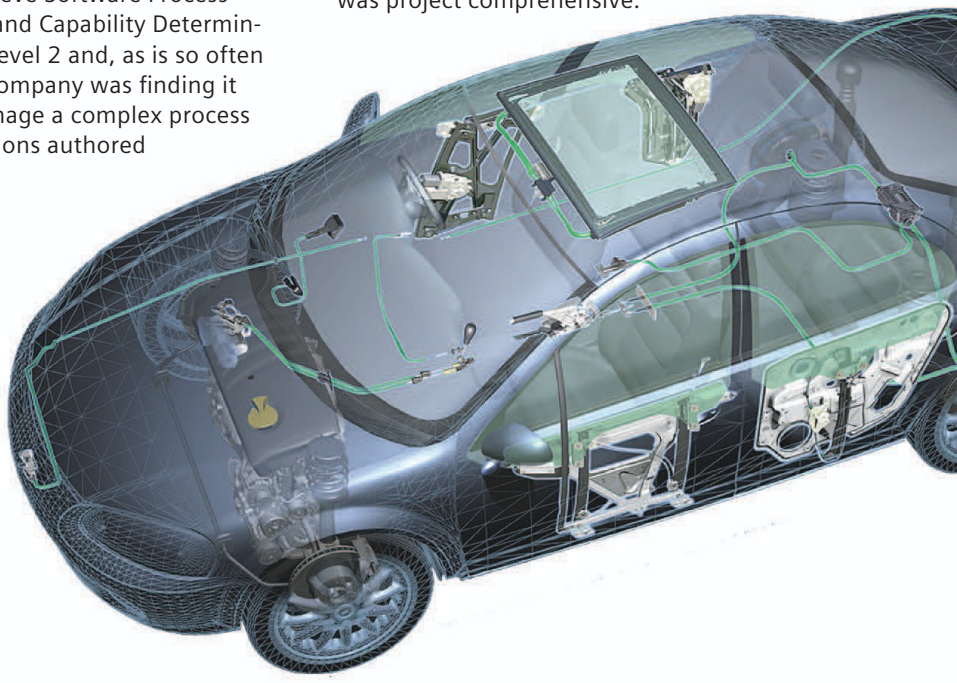
Fully addressed OEM customers' RIF requirements, improving project collaboration

Siemens PLM Software solution enables Küster Automotive to significantly improve compliance and easily utilize other key technologies

The challenges: Automotive SPICE compliance, requirements interchange

The challenges confronting the teams at Küster Automotive GmbH (Küster) were typical of almost every Siemens PLM Software's Polarion customer operating in industries in which compliance with some standard is mandated or desirable. Küster needed to achieve Software Process Improvement and Capability Determination (SPICE) Level 2 and, as is so often the case, the company was finding it difficult to manage a complex process with specifications authored using Microsoft Office® software and shared using PDF files sent by email.

An additional complication, and a major reason for seeking a better solution, was the fact that the company's original equipment manufacturer (OEM) customers required exchange of specifications in Requirements Interchange Format (RIF) and some kind of system to manage change. "OEMs would send PDF files," notes Christian Posluschni, team leader – Development Electronics/ Software Development, "and we had no system to effectively manage requirements...no automation, and nothing that was project comprehensive."



Results *(continued)*

Measurably increased productivity and efficiency through effective change management

Readily utilized other tools already in place, including Subversion/TortoiseSVN for version control, MATLAB for modeling and (Sparx) Enterprise Architect for UML

The quest for a solution

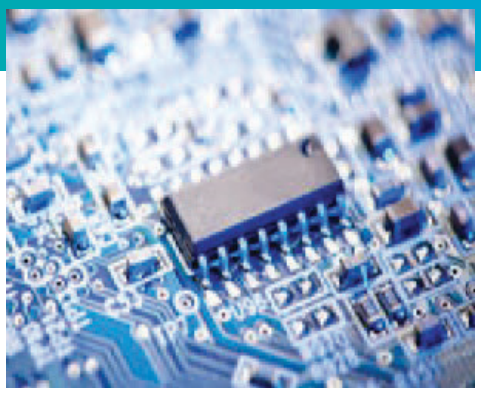
A subsidiary had already purchased a number of licenses for a competing solution, so it seemed logical to simply roll out that product everywhere. An evaluation project was implemented in the electronics and predevelopment departments.

"This trial roll-out project manifested the limitations of the competing solution, and led us to evaluate Polarion ALM," Posluschni explains.

The evaluation pointed to the need for a single, unified solution for requirements management, as opposed to a loosely integrated conglomeration of point solutions. The solution needed to be able to readily handle RIF, as well as easily implement all traceability and reporting required for Automotive SPICE® Level 2. The possibility to use the same unified solution for test management and test automation in the future would be a major plus.

The solution

Küster found the Siemens PLM Software Polarion™ application lifecycle solutions ideally suited to its needs. The all-inclusive solution, with a web-based architecture, would save on both adoption and maintenance costs. The exclusive Siemens PLM



Software Polarion LiveDoc™ documents made it a simple matter to transition requirements from desktop docs, with their slow, error-prone management process, to an always-up-to-date online environment with easy authoring coupled with automated workflow. Importantly, the technology was fully adaptable to virtually any process.

Küster also found that import of RIF data from an OEM could be handled by one of the Polarion ALM robust line-up of extensions. The roadmap showed that with version 2014, RIF/ ReqIF would be fully supported in Polarion ALM itself. Plus, there was a clear path to expand into testing and quality assurance that would not require integrations of any kind.

"With Polarion ALM requirements management we found the solution to both of our biggest pain points: achieving SPICE compliance and enabling us to seamlessly fit into the OEM supply chain."

Christian Posluschni
Team Leader – Development Electronics/Software Development
Küster

The benefits

Today, 62 Küster users are employing Polarion ALM to significant advantage. Posluschni cites a number of major benefits that his company has realized from adopting Polarion ALM.

Posluschni explains, "Polarion ALM requirements management has proven quite easy to comply with Automotive SPICE Level 2. The depth and breadth of traceability required is easy to establish.

"The same system that supports our Automotive SPICE compliance also supports us as a part of the OEM supply chain. The ability to use RIF (and soon, ReqIF) to easily read requirements from OEMs and manage all the requirements (theirs and ours) online is of great benefit to us.

"Rather than restricting us, we found that Polarion ALM was open so that we could leverage other tools we already had in place: TortoiseSVN for version control, MATLAB for modeling, and Sparx Systems Enterprise Architect for the Unified Modeling Language UML.

"Polarion ALM requirements management was significantly more affordable than the competing solution. And it was simple to purchase: one single solution that covers everything. No costly integration of

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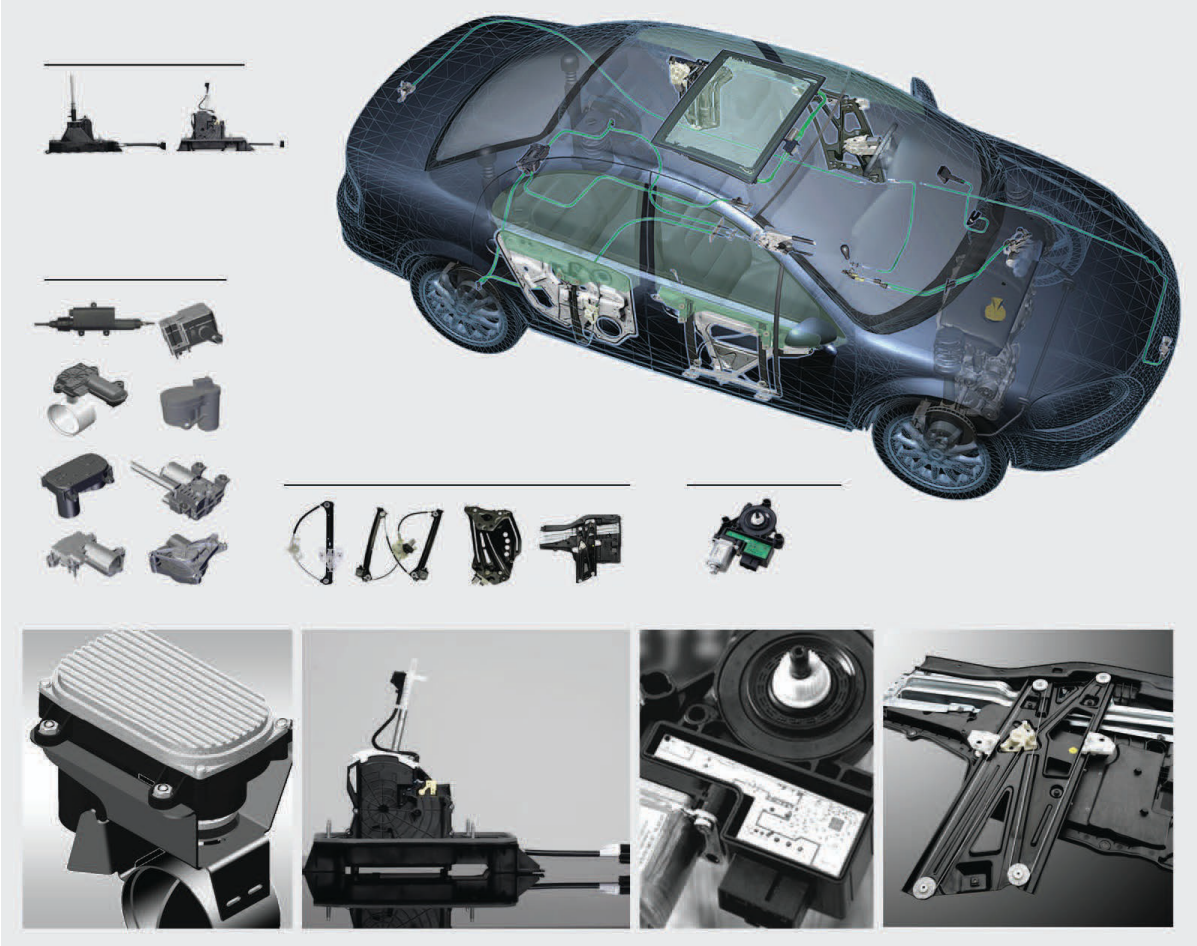

Solutions/Services

Polarion ALM
www.polarion.com/products/polarion-alm

Polarion Requirements
www.polarion.com/products/polarion-requirements

Customer's primary business

Küster Automotive GmbH produces components for the automotive industry. Products include door systems, window opener/closer regulator systems, actuating elements, parking breaks, exhaust flaps and embedded control devices for construction machinery.
www.kuester.net

Customer location

Ehringshausen
Germany

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several different products. In fact, very little in the way of training and professional services were needed for the roll-out."

Posluschni notes, "We are pleased with the continuous improvements delivered in the regular updates. Administration is much easier now than when we started out (GUI rather than XML), and we're looking forward with excitement to the native ReqIF support that's on the roadmap."

What the future holds

According to Posluschni, Küster has already broadened the scope of its activities to testing, but there's more to come. "Currently, test results are collected manually", he says. "For the future, an automated integration is planned."

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Christian Posluschni
Team Leader – Development Electronics/Software Development
Küster

Siemens PLM Software

Americas +1 314 264 8499
Europe +44 (0) 1276 413200
Asia-Pacific +852 2230 3308

www.siemens.com/plm

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