

CUSTOMER REPORT

Wandres GmbH micro-cleaning

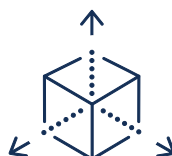
Lino[®]
leading innovation

Based in Stegen, Germany, Wandres GmbH micro-cleaning specializes in developing and manufacturing innovative brush and air-based systems for industrial surface cleaning.



Clean And Rapid Configuration

Surface cleaning is an essential step in numerous industrial processes. Reliable, careful removal of dust, fibers and microparticles is essential before surfaces can be coated, painted or laminated. This is a key step in making high-quality products.



“Anyone who spends any time at all thinking about automating engineering quickly ends up looking closely at Design Automation, i.e. the configuration in a technical context.”

Alexis Gmelin



Task

- To master a complex variant portfolio
- Automation of 3D CAD modeling
- Single end-to-end process, from sales to assembly

Solution

- Tacton Design Automation for rule-based 3D design
- Tacton Sales Automation for CAD-independent modeling on the web
- Lino® PDM pro for PDM integration

Result

- Working times cut from 2 - 4 hours to 10 minutes
- Enhanced design quality
- Every order is a custom-tailored solution

Customized cleaning systems

Wandres supplies its cleaning systems to German automotive manufacturers, which integrate them in their assembly lines. The cleaning of car bodies before final painting, or license plate blanks prior to forming, is a vital prerequisite for high-quality surfaces. Wandres has also earned a reputation in the furniture and flooring industries. This enterprise brought linear wiping technology to market as a cleaning process and developed and patented the Incromat process.

The Wandres product portfolio is based on the modular principle: multiple different air- and wipe-based components can be combined to achieve optimum cleaning. This enables Wandres to deliver cleaning systems that are customized to meet unique customer requirements. Thus, every order is a custom-tailored solution.

Over the years, this strategy led to a substantial increase in resource requirements, particularly in Design, which uses the Solidworks® 3D CAD solution. On account of the modular system that combined numerous components and parameters, the number of possible cleaning system variants was increasing at a dramatic rate. Consequently, Wandres was seeking new, more effective solutions to get a handle on these variants.

The aim was clear: “Reduced workload through automation”,

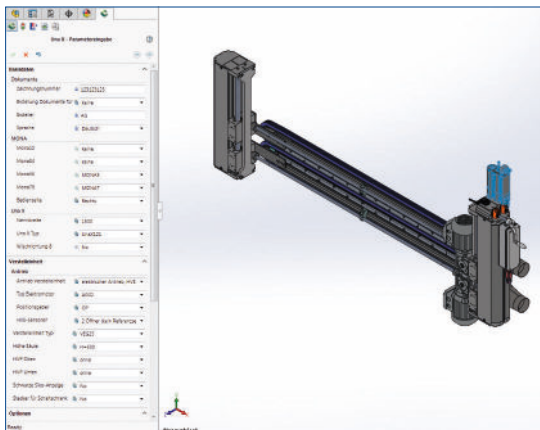
states Alexis Gmelin, responsible Product Development Manager. Mr. Gmelin, who also heads up the robot sword brush group, supervised the implementation of the configurator in the enterprise. “Anyone who spends any time at all thinking about automating engineering quickly ends up looking closely at Design Automation, i.e. the configuration in a technical context”, Gmelin observes.

At the start of 2015, Wandres decided to implement the Tacton Design Automation Configurator of Swedish vendor Tacton Systems. After gaining initial experience in building configuration models, Wandres decided to change its Tacton Business Partner in mid-2015. Ultimately, they chose Lino GmbH, a recognized configuration specialist and software vendor in the areas of Design and Sales Automation. The Lino concept of a single end-to-end process, from sales to assembly, was the deciding attribute in favor of the Lino solutions.

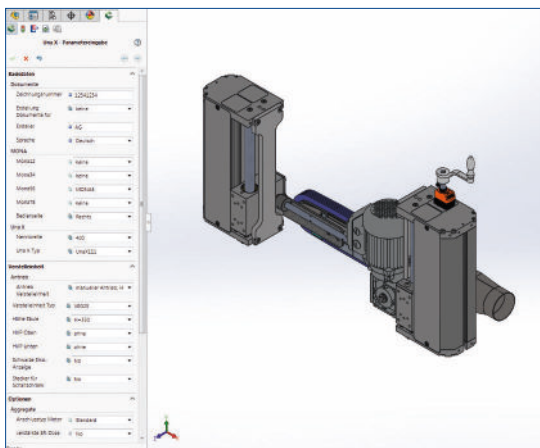
THE COMPANY

WANDRES
micro-cleaning

Name	Wandres GmbH micro-cleaning
Location	Stegen
Portfolio	Cleaning systems for continuous use in industrial production
Customer	Furniture, packaging, automotive, electronics, glass, paper and printing industries
Employees	140
Founded	1981
Internet	wandres.com



CAD-view of a combi-swordbrush for bilateral cleaning. Shown on the left is the control panel for parameter-entry, shown on the right is the resulting 3D-model.



CAD-view of a combi-swordbrush for unilateral cleaning. Shown on the left is the control panel for parameter-entry, shown on the right is the resulting 3D-model.

“I estimate the time required for designing a typical system at two to four hours. With the support of Tacton Design Automation, we’ve cut this time to less than 10 minutes!”

Alexis Gmelin

Single end-to-end process, from sales to assembly

As mentioned, Wandres was already using Tacton Design Automation in development and design. But the application was scarcely being used in the operational business. As a first step, it was decided to build the modules and rule sets of all individual cleaning devices completely in order to expand the use of the software and increase employee acceptance. The modules and rule sets for the combi-sword brushes were acquired in the second step. Alexis Gmelin oversaw these tasks concurrently with his day-to-day project work.

It was the third step that was truly decisive for the time savings of over 80 percent. The rollout of Tacton Sales Automation increased the degree of automation in modeling, while the web interface made operation independent of the CAD world.

The integration of the ERP system with Tacton Sales Automation is a further milestone that will be attained in the near future. This will make relevant order data available to all users while still remaining in a single repository. In the past, manual data entry had often resulted in costly errors that were not discovered until late in the assembly phase.

In pursuit of this aim of preventing redundancy, integration with the PDM system is the next agenda item. This is where one unbeatable advantage of the Lino® PDM pro solution – automatic duplicate checking – really shines. As soon as a module or sub-assembly is generated using the configurator, Solidworks checks whether this module already exists in the PDM system. If so, it is integrated automatically. This ensures that no duplicates are created. Adapters to four PDM systems are currently available for Lino® PDM pro.



“We save a lot of working time in design.”

At present, Wandres is using the Tacton Design Automation Configurator for its C-Line (systems for cleaning wood surfaces). As soon as an order comes in, employees can select the machine parameters using the Tacton Sales Automation web interface. This automatically generates a customer dimensional drawing, a simplified customer 3D model, various parts lists as well as a 3D model for final assembly. This data is then stored in a project-specific folder so that it can be accessed rapidly at all times – and by all departments, such as Service.

For Alexis Gmelin, the greatest benefit is the vastly enhanced speed. “We save a lot of working time in design. I estimate the time required for designing a typical system at two to four hours. With the support of Tacton Design Automation, we’ve cut this time to less than 10 minutes!”

Thus, a very small team of two employees can handle the complete design for all systems. At the same time, Tacton Design Automation enhances design quality thanks to automation and rule compliance. The ease of use of the integrated rule editor plays a further decisive role.

“For over four years, I’ve been using the rule editor almost every day to expand our models”, reports Alexis Gmelin. In terms of collaboration, Alexis Gmelin has nothing but praise for the “strong support and fast responsiveness” of Lino GmbH. In future, the sales department will also be able to use Tacton Design Automation to relieve the design department even further and accelerate production processes.



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