

Johnson Polymer Completes Global Implementation of ProductVision®



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- Lisa Barrientez,
Global Regulatory
Compliance Manager,

Johnson Polymer, a leading global supplier of environmentally compliant polymers for the printing, packaging and coating industries, has successfully completed implementation of the ProductVision Product Development system from Advanced Software Designs (ASD). As part of their process, they have replaced 3 systems (formula, MSDS, and packaging) and interfaced with multiple internal systems (two ERP systems, labeling, data warehousing, and intranet publishing). The project name "Project Step" was selected because it was a significant step forward for the Polymer business in replacing a formula/MSDS system with a fully integrated formula management/regulatory compliance solution.



Project Step Implementation

The project started back in late 2000 when the Regulatory Affairs group started to look for an integrated software solution to meet their formula development and regulatory needs. In Phase 1 of the project, the team developed the requirements, and then invited a few software companies to make presentations to the Global Selection team to begin the software selection process (Phase 2). The presentations followed a very detailed script demonstrating over 100 different functional requirements using raw material and formula information supplied by Johnson Polymer. According to

The Requirement:
Global Formulation
Management and
Regulatory Compliance

The Solution:
ProductVision® Formula
Management, Regulatory
Compliance, and
Regulatory Distribution
Modules

Lisa Barrientez, Global Regulatory Compliance Manager and Project Step Team Leader, "Advanced Software Designs and their ProductVision software provided almost everything that we needed as part of their standard functionality. The variety of ways that the software can be tailored and implemented, especially through the use of calculated, user-defined properties, has allowed us to create a Johnson Polymer solution that meets our unique needs. In addition, because the formula

management and regulatory compliance modules are completely integrated, any raw material and formula changes flow through directly to the MSDS. Other software we evaluated focused on the regulatory compliance side, and the formulas had to be developed outside of those systems and loaded into the RC database."

After selecting ProductVision as their solution, the project moved to Phase 3, Planning and Pilot. In this step, the software was installed, team members trained, and the plan to migrate existing information from their current systems was laid out. The Technical Implementation, Phase 4, was a 10-step process which involved configuring the system, creating hundreds of custom properties, defining output documents (reports, MSDSs, and labels),



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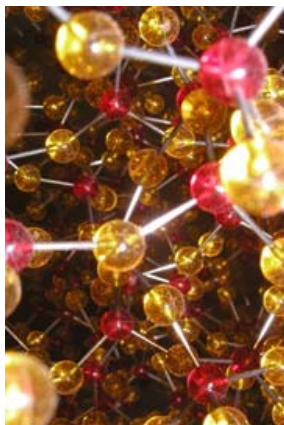
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and then migrating raw material and formula data from a variety of sources.

While this effort was being managed by the Regulatory Affairs team, the Johnson Polymer IT team was writing all of the interfaces that would allow the information being input and generated in ProductVision to flow through to many other systems, eliminating time-consuming redundant data entry and associated errors. Although implementation of ProductVision software typically takes three to six months, the scope of the Johnson Polymer project extended this time frame, primarily due to the interface development work. The Global Roll-out (Phase 5), in January 2003, rolled out the system to over 100 users in multiple countries.

Benefits of ProductVision as the System Core

Lisa has already seen immediate benefits from Project Step. “Both our Customer and Technical Service groups are enjoying the benefits of this implementation. We have both MSDSs and regulatory information sheets available on our intranet, which allow quick, consistent and accurate response to over 80% of routine customer questions. The information, including labeling and transportation, is more consistent, since it all flows from one source – ProductVision. In addition, the information is readily accessible to key employees, allowing the Regulatory Affairs team to focus on the non-routine issues, increasing our overall efficiency.”



In addition, some of the longer-term benefits detailed in the project are already starting to develop. The product commercialization process has been streamlined, with fewer forms, and the global visibility of products that are in the development pipeline has been significantly enhanced. The next focus will be to move documents to an automated internet feed allowing customers a self-serve access to MSDSs and product regulatory information.

Strong ASD Partnership a Key to Success

In looking back at the project, Lisa said, “This project was a success because of the team effort between Johnson Polymer and ASD. Whenever we ran into something unexpected, we worked together to find creative solutions. In addition, with ASD’s extensive background in the chemical industry, they understood and often anticipated what we needed. I was extremely impressed not only with their responsiveness on software issues, but also with ASD’s technical understanding of both the polymer and regulatory compliance areas.”



"We could not have imagined the system that we would have in place today when we originally started the project with ASD in 2001. ProductVision has truly provided us a vision for the way in which we manage our business."

- Lisa Barrientez

2005 Update on ProductVision Implementation

Based upon the extremely positive feedback to their original project, Johnson Polymer have recently implemented several additional projects to round out the core ProductVision functionality and expand ProductVision's role in their business.

Specifically, to allow their internal staff a self-serve access to MSDSs and product regulatory information, such as global inventory status, they have implemented an MSDS cart, similar to an on-line order cart. Also, because of the success of their initial roll-out, rather than purchase an outside document management system, Johnson Polymer decided to work with ASD to customize ProductVision's basic attachment functionality to provide some business-specific document management features. In addition, the company recently added the new MSDS Mailing Plus module which allows the company to meet various compliance requirements on a world-wide basis. This module automates the distribution of regulatory documents, via either postal mail or Email, for Johnson Polymer's order systems globally.

As a result of these new enhancements, the Regulatory Affairs group is able to respond more quickly as new requirements develop, such as the need to generate documents in languages of new EU members. The expanded document management functionality allows users across the organization to have immediate access to the appropriate documents. Customer calls have been reduced with the self-serve access to MSDSs and product regulatory information. Manpower, printing, and mailing costs associated with a large volume of mailed regulatory documents will drop significantly as the new MSDS Mailing Plus module is fully implemented and the majority of the documents are distributed automatically via Email. Johnson Polymer is now assured of meeting compliance requirements since the system will automatically send an updated MSDS when required.

Lisa is excited about all that has been accomplished using ProductVision as the core for their information needs. "We could not have imagined the system that we would have in place today when we originally started the project with ASD in 2001. ProductVision has truly provided us a vision for the way in which we manage our business."

For more information about the ProductVision® Product Development System, contact Ted Pliakos at (636) 532-6021, email: tpliakos@asdsoftware.com.

