

TAYLOR-DEAL AVIATION, LLC

Aviation engineering firm soars to new heights with SolidWorks Enterprise PDM



SolidWorks Enterprise PDM enables TDA to accelerate development of its modifications for VIP aircraft through improved management of project design data.

Taylor-Deal Aviation (TDA), LLC, is a leading aviation consultancy that provides engineering services for corporate jet, state-of-the-art VIP aircraft, and military modifications. Founded in 2004, the company has grown rapidly, and today offers its clients the talents and skills of approximately 30 engineers with nearly 300 years of combined aircraft engineering experience.

When TDA began its operations, the company had already decided to use a 3D CAD system for developing custom aircraft interiors. According to Edmund “Butch” Lively, senior design engineer, the company chose SolidWorks® 3D CAD software based on the experience of TDA personnel who had used it successfully at other aviation companies.

“We totally appreciate the benefits of 3D. Some of us—myself included—had used SolidWorks software before and found it easy to use and very intuitive,” Lively explains. “From the beginning, we knew that using SolidWorks software would enable us to visualize designs better and improve communications with customers and manufacturing partners. Soon after implementing SolidWorks software, we began researching product data management (PDM) solutions. Working in the aviation industry, we recognized the need for a document management system beyond the file management, email, and FTP technologies that we initially used to support future growth.”

TDA established a set of criteria for a PDM solution. The company wanted a system that not only was easy to install, but also simple to use, administer, and maintain. Flexibility was another key criterion, as TDA needed to customize the system to its unique processes, without entailing the added cost of reseller support, training, and customization services. TDA chose SolidWorks Enterprise PDM, implementing 35 licenses, because it provided the only PDM solution that met all of the firm’s requirements.

Challenge:

Accelerate aviation interior design and streamline interaction and collaboration with key partners.

Solution:

Implement SolidWorks Enterprise PDM to integrate data management, tighten revision control, and automate workflows.

Results:

- Reduced development cycle time
- Improved document management and revision control
- Established automated workflows
- Advanced production of technical publications

