



CAD license management // inCharge®

Success Story

SMS Siemag AG

SMS Siemag AG optimizes its
CAD license management with inCharge®



Günter Rasche, CAD Project Manager at SMS Siemag AG: „For us, it’s a big advantage to have a continuous overview of our existing CAD licenses. For our round 1,500 designers world wide, we require only about half as many licenses.“

The customer’s starting point

While SMS Siemag AG has almost 1,400 CAD workplaces for mechanical design alone, the actual number of CAD licenses is only half as many. Even so, there’s no shortage. How can that be? Günter Rasche is CAD project manager at SMS Siemag AG with responsibility for the company’s CAD license management. “My area of responsibility extends from Pittsburgh on the east coast of the USA to Beijing in China.” Our designers need CAD licenses 24 hours a day. The number varies constantly, both in the course of a day and also over the year as a whole.

“Given such volatility and the scale of our plant design activities, it is vital for us to optimize our cost management.” There is also the fact that this line of business is a slow-moving one. As it is perfectly possible for one job to take up to two years, this makes it important for financial controllers to rule out any elements of surprise and for them to be able to clearly assign costs.

“For us, it’s a big advantage to have a continuous overview of our available CAD licenses. For the around 1,400 CAD workplaces, we require only about half as many licenses, because, of course, not all are in use at the same time. Also, we cover peaks in design activity through external work contracts and our financial controllers allocate the costs by department. When we enter into negotiations with CAD suppliers, the agreements are for between two and three years. For all that, we require a reliable basis for planning.”

In-house software has its limitations

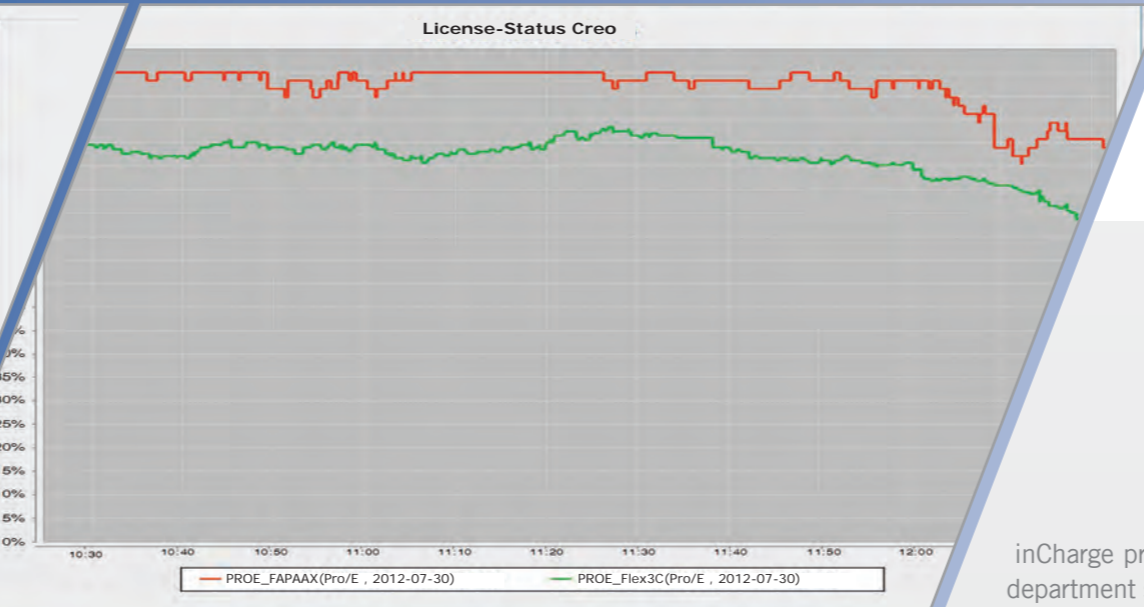
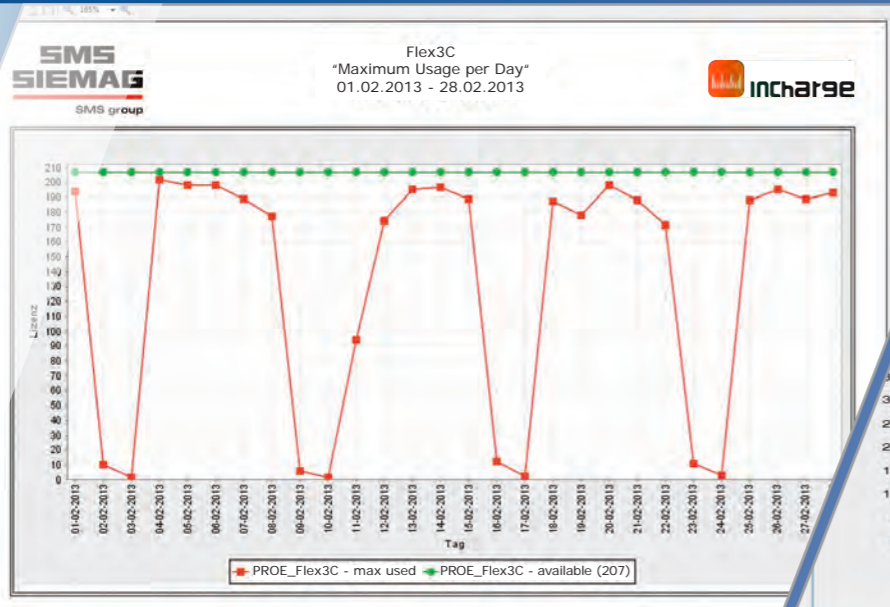
Up until 2011, Günter Rasche used an in-house-developed tool based on MS-Access as a workaround. The number of licenses in use was written to the database every 10 minutes. “However, the tool wasn’t so easy to use and, when it became necessary to reprogram it because of a Visual Basic upgrade, we decided to search the market for an off-the-peg solution.”

*Responsible at SMS Siemag AG:
Günter Rasche, CAD-Project Manager*

*Responsible at NovaTec:
Hans-Dieter Brenner, Product Manager*

Search for an off-the-peg solution with flexibility

CAD licenses are normally managed in FLEXIm, a quasi-standard developed and marketed for license management by US-based Flexera Software Inc. “First of all, therefore, we took a look at FLEXIm, but found that it didn’t really meet our needs. Then, at the annual conference of our CAD supplier PTC, we hit upon NovaTec from Leinfelden-Echterdingen, and we immediately felt we were in good hands. The german company met our every expectation. Management of our Creo- and AutoCAD licenses was made very simple.”



inCharge provides an overview of usage on a daily basis as well as application - or department specific usage and shows clear graphical charts at the press of a button. It provides substantial data for future decision-making and project plannings.

Precise cost center assignment

“What decided things for us was the cost center assignment feature, which came as standard with the basic version of inCharge. For us, there was even the added advantage of a more in-depth breakdown within individual cost centers.”

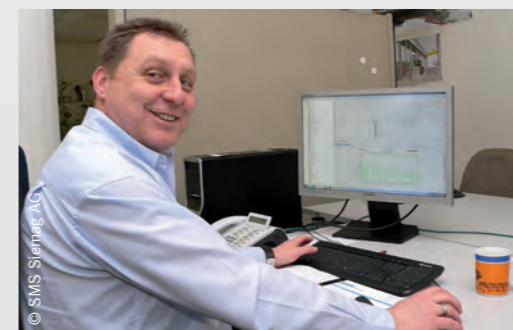
Installed in just 15 minutes

“Installation took just 15 minutes and I was able to do it myself. Integrating the license servers and registering the license files was also pretty easy. Today, I can run any reports I like and I can use Excel to create meaningful charts that are easy to follow for “non-experts” and the management. We greatly value the flexibility that inCharge from NovaTec gives us.”

Compliance assured

The number of Creo users fluctuates between 350 and 400, while the figure for AutoCAD users is between 800 and 1,000. To cope with periods of peak use, SMS Sie-mag AG has agreed a special arrangement with PTC that allows it to connect an additional Creo license server.

NovaTec’s inCharge monitors the license volume and delivers a monthly report. “We take this report and square it away with PTC before buying any extra licenses we might need. PTC accepts the inCharge reporting system and the figures it produces. This allows us to conduct meaningful negotiations on a sound basis and we end up paying only for those licenses we actually use.”



New requirements planned

In future, it is planned to include the CAD licenses of other vendors and departments. “We also aim to further simplify the way in which cost center assignment works. At the moment, we still do this “at the push of a button”, with a csv file generated from inCharge. In future, we want to automate this using Windows LDAP user management. Once again, NovaTec has shown itself responsive to our wishes.”

SMS Siemag AG

With around 13,500 employees and total sales of some €3.5bn, the SMS group is made up of SMS Holding GmbH, which is responsible for strategic planning and oversight, as well as various internationally active suppliers of plant and machinery for processing steel and non-ferrous metals. The group basically consists of the corporate divisions of SMS Siemag AG and SMS Meer GmbH as well as the industrial holdings.

Around 60 % of the SMS group's total sales is generated by SMS Siemag, whose product range covers the process chain with plant and machinery for the steel, aluminium and NF-metal industries, from steelmaking, continuous-casting and rolling-mill technologies to finishing lines for hot and cold strip, including electrics and automation as well as a corresponding service offering.

Conversely, SMS Meer GmbH produces steelmaking plants and continuous casters for long products, tube plants, long-product rolling mills, forging machinery, copper and aluminium plants as well as closed-die forging plants, ring rolling machines and the appropriate heat technology. In addition, the two corporate divisions supply environmental technology under the Ecoplants brand.

The industrial holdings of the SMS group additionally include a majority 60 % stake in Paul WURTH S.A., Luxembourg, and over 90 % of the shares in elexis AG, Germany. Paul WURTH is a globally active company and a leader in the construction of blast furnaces, coking plants and environmental technology for the metallurgical industry. The elexis group with its subsidiaries is a technology leader in production automation, drive technology and quality control.



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„For us it is a great advantage to have a permanent overview of all existing CAD-licenses. For our roughly 1.400 engineers worldwide only half the licenses are needed.“

Günter Rasche, CAD-Project Manager and responsible for the CAD-License management at SMS Siemag AG



The result

„Such flexibility, coupled with the ease of use and excellent performance of inCharge, is unique to NovaTec. It makes us sure we've made the right decision.“

Product details inCharge®



inCharge is an innovative product to achieve a significant reduction of license costs, which enables you to centrally monitor licenses of your enterprise managed by floating license management systems.

With inCharge you can analyse the usage of your licenses. inCharge gives you an overview of the current status and the utilization rate of your licenses. Thus you can optimize the amount of your licenses and at the same time make sure that all necessary licenses are available. In addition, your license costs can be distributed according to their usage and the continuous proof of compliance is guaranteed for your entire enterprise.

inCharge® is a product by NovaTec Solutions GmbH

NovaTec is an owner-operated, independent German IT firm founded in 1993 supporting customers across various industries in the successful implementation of IT-related projects. NovaTec is a synonym for innovation, customer orientation and project success.

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