

CASE STUDY

Blue Giant Reclaims Engineering Resources with CADLink



BLUE GIANT®

HEADQUARTERS

Mississauga, Ontario

INDUSTRY

Loading Dock and
Material Handling

QBUILD PRODUCT

CADLink

WEBSITE

<https://www.bluegiant.com/>

Blue Giant is a leader in the loading dock and material handling industry. Since 1963, Blue Giant has developed, manufactured and distributed dock levelers, ground-level lifts, vehicle restraints, and many other products.

THE CURRENT STATE

As longtime Infor VISUAL users, Blue Giant had been entering their SOLIDWORKS PDM BOMs into VISUAL manually for 12 years. Their designs feature thousands of parts across a multi-level indented BOM. However, their engineering team had been simplifying their designs and “flattening” the BOM structure in an effort to reduce manual data entry work.

Blue Giant started an initiative to streamline their projects and overall data flow, which included CADLink.

Once the philosophy of modeling as built was adopted, being able to quickly upload a full assembly in one shot is most definitely the biggest benefit.

– GLYNN TROMANS, PROJECT MANAGER

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PROBLEMS WITH THE CURRENT STATE

Engineers were overwhelmed with **up to 300 hours** spent on BOM data entry per week. They had little time to follow consistent practices, resulting in breakdowns in communication between departments at Blue Giant. Mistakes in the BOM or their operations were also found during the project, these mistakes led to delayed shipments or extra costs in the work order.

Once the data was entered into VISUAL, the simplified BOM made it hard to track actual costs. Many parts and operations were grouped together in larger buckets, which meant it was difficult to address inefficient or costly steps in their production process.

BUSINESS RESULTS AND EFFICIENCIES



Eliminated manual, time-intensive data entry, massaging and tracking, regaining 90% of time previously spent



Achieved better quality, collection, and reporting of engineering BOM data, avoiding delays and mistakes downstream



Established a foundation for uniform business processes and a better understanding of ERP and cross team knowledge

SEEING RESULTS

Since implementing CADLink, time spent on data entry was reduced by **270 hours per week** (90% of the original time). Thanks to the removal of the bottleneck, Blue Giant's project throughput increased to the equivalent of having almost 7 additional engineers on staff.

CADLink allowed their engineers to model their products the way they were meant to be built instead of simplifying. They could capture the actual project costs using the full detail of the BOM and Operations.

Having an integration made better design practices easier to implement and enforce. CADLink helped push the importance of consistency and accuracy of SOLIDWORKS property nomenclature. This **improved communication within engineering as well as with other departments.**

CADLink is always viewed as system which can evolve with our use of SolidWorks. DriveWorks and Visual evolves too.

– GLYNN TROMANS, PROJECT MANAGER

