Users can access their documents
from anywhere, on any device.
Factorías Vulcano

Shipbuilding

Canon

Factorías Vulcano has streamlined and simplified their document access and improved their decision-making capabilities

The company

Factorías Vulcano was founded in 1919 and is focused on designing and building small and medium-sized ships. Over the years they have stood out for their ability to adapt to increasingly competitive market. By focusing on advanced technology, the company has specialized in ships with complex integrations and high added value, such as chemical, offshore construction, and 3D seismic mapping ships. They are currently expanding into the field of ferries, boat-hotels, and medium-sized cruise ships.

The company prides itself on its highly qualified staff (including 26 senior engineers), its highly refined production processes, as well as its constant incorporation of new technologies in their production processes.

The challenge

Factorías Vulcano was looking for a structured repository that would speed up access to their information and make decision-making easier. To make the most use of their information, it was necessary that it be accessible from anywhere on any mobile device. Another key requirement was solid information security and compliance with norms and regulations relating to corporate environmental accountability.

The challenges arising from this project included various areas of the company, from quality control and engineering to the tracking of documentation. At the same time, it was necessary to implement workflows that would improve collaboration and ensure the correct processing of each document.

Furthermore, due to certain requirements in the design process, it was important to have automatic version control of documents without losing the previous versions in order to control each document's life cycle.

In order to meet these needs, the following requirements were set:

- Reduce the amount of time needed to find, view, and save documents
- Eliminate unnecessary copies
- Access all versions of every document

The solution

According to Fernando Vázquez, Head of IT at Factorías Vulcano, "When a new contract comes in, a key phase of the process is engineering. All work orders that make it to production need to first be designed. Managing and tracking the documentation flowing between engineering and production is very important since we have a very short amount of time to do our work. For example, the delivery time for a 180-meter (590 ft) ship with two engines and dual engine rooms is less than 2 years from the date the contract is signed. This is a very short amount of time for such a complicated project, so we need to be very efficient during the design phase. Furthermore, we have the problem that most of our ships are prototypes, which makes things more complex."

Factorías Vulcano finally chose Therefore™ to meet all their document management needs. "With this system we have not only implemented a tool, but rather laid the foundation of a document management system to make better use of our organizational knowledge. We are diversifying as a company; we're getting involved in the production of large-scale metal structures and are strengthening what we call 'Vulcanoteca', essentially a library of all our administrative knowledge."

Before the implementation of this project, documents were managed in a Windows folder structure, where each had its own encryption and security permissions.

Among the key reasons Factorías Vulcano chose Canon's Therefore™ platform was the ability to immediately find documents based on index data. Another factor was the workflow functionality, since in the company a published document is not the same as an approved document. In this case, version control is a very important and delicate process, seeing as oftentimes it's necessary to work on a document version which may not be the latest. Most important of all for the company was allowing controlled access to information to third-party companies and providers who work together with them on projects.

"We chose Canon's Therefore™ solution because it's intuitive, it satisfied all our requirements, and above all, because it integrated with our hardware, since we scan lots of documents," added Fernando Vázquez.

Results

- Reliability and flexibility in accessing documents
- Simplicity of use and adaptability to requirements
- Customized document workflows
- Controlled access to information for all involved parties

The solution is used by practically everyone at the shipyard. Regarding the volume of documents that are being managed, it's important to keep in mind that, for example, around 18.000 tubes are installed on each ship, and each tube requires a design plan. As such, between 70.000 and 90.000 documents need to be managed for each project.

"User expectations were very high, but we were still pleasantly surprised by some features such as linked documents, which make searching much easier. Another aspect that exceeded our expectations was the amount of flexibility we have; for example, to create categories. This allows us to be very fast because the solution is very intuitive. Furthermore, linking can be automated so it's not necessary to create links for each document," says María Pérez, Head of R&D at Factorías Vulcano.

She continues, "The main advantages I would mention are the reliability, the simplicity in adapting to different requirements, and the ability to customize the system to complement our way of working. The platform meets all our needs and it's provided everything we've asked for."

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FACTORIAS VULCANO

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