



GF Tool Manager: Cloud-based tool lifecycle management

Case study: GF Casting Solutions

Baseline situation

One of the keys to success when a company decides to digitalize is to expand its own organization digitally and actively integrate external partners such as suppliers and even customers. This increases transparency in both directions and means that processes can be extended beyond the boundaries of the company.

For vendor management, this involves not only digitizing and optimizing processes relating to the procurement of goods and services, but also using contemporary platforms to create a basis for information exchange and cooperation with all suppliers.



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Alois Edtbauer, MSc
Buyer Sourcing Group Capex and Tooling
GF Casting Solutions Services GmbH

The task

The vision at GF Casting Solutions is to offer global solutions and increase productivity worldwide. The company operates 13 production sites and is positioned as an innovation leader offering Swiss quality in its target markets. This places a particularly high priority on vendor management.

Norms, standards, and drawings need to be securely released and communicated with suppliers. Historically, there have been a variety of processes and systems to accomplish this. The objective was to find a solution that would integrate internal employees and suppliers in equal measure. In addition, it was important to optimize traceability in the cooperation with suppliers and to completely automate document versioning.

A major focus was placed on completely digitizing data relating to the tools, such as those used in the diecasting molds of GF Casting Solutions, consolidating this data from several sources, and making it available to the various departments at GF Casting Solutions as a source of know-how. In doing so, information needs to be compiled both from the various locations where the corresponding tool is used as well as from the supplier.

The solution

GF Casting Solutions relies on Approve on Fabasoft PROCECO to facilitate structured cooperation with suppliers for the lifecycle management of die-casting tools. For this purpose, data relating to the tools (costs, deadlines, technical execution, and so on) is digitally recorded, compiled from the individual locations, and made available to all employees and suppliers involved in what are now the standardized processes, in accordance with the specific requirements. By migrating GF Tool Manager to Approve, a comprehensive solution was created that digitally manages the entire tool life cycle: from the specification phase to specification sheet preparation and regular reporting, right through to the selection of the tool. GF Tool Manager is now being used in Austria, Germany, China, and the US.

Advantages of using Approve on Fabasoft PROCECO

Implementing Approve means that there is now only one standard system for document management with the suppliers of GF Casting Solutions. Data security is guaranteed by certified European quality, such as the C5 certificate of the German Federal Ministry for Security (BSI).

Before documents are released to suppliers, they have to undergo a defined approval process. Users can view the version history of documents, folders, or entire projects using the “time travel” function and even recover them when needed. The cloud-based solution provides the option of setting deadlines for activities, for example, to request suppliers to submit binding acceptance of released documents on specific dates. This ensures security, transparency, and improved process quality. “With the launch of Approve and the rollout of GF Tool Manager, our organization can now work more easily, quickly, and more securely with all suppliers,” says Alois Edtbauer, MSc, Buyer Sourcing Group Capex and Tooling at GF Casting Solutions.

About GF Casting Solutions

With over 4,400 employees at 13 production sites around the world, cutting-edge manufacturing processes, and a broad range of materials, GF Casting Solutions is making the casting innovations of the future a reality. GF Casting Solutions is one of three core divisions of Georg Fischer AG, a listed company that has been independent for over 200 years. www.gfcs.com