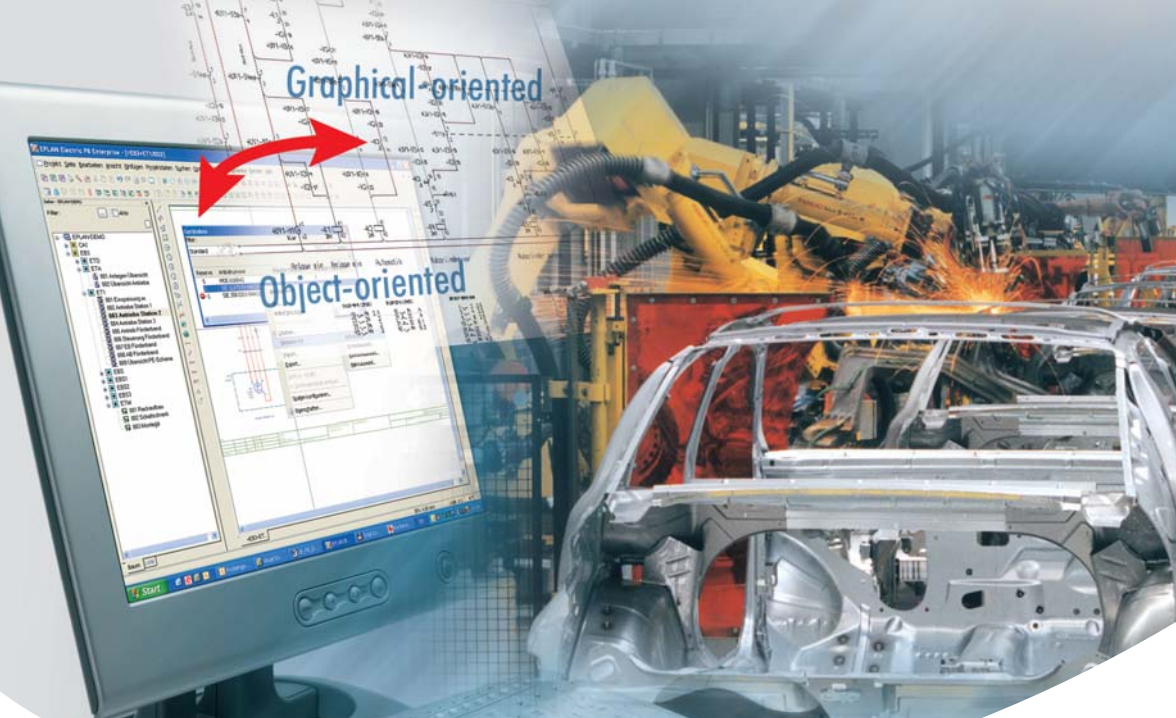


Automotive
Industry

ePLAN[®]
electric 8



GENERAL MOTORS

in Detroit

standardizes on common global E-CAD/CAE software

Beta testing EPLAN Electric P8

Beta testers are analytical people who are not easily convinced. Daniel King is a Principal Engineer at GM and a beta tester of the EPLAN Electric P8 software in Detroit, Michigan. In 2005, King and his team began to evaluate EPLAN Electric P8's suitability for the world's largest automobile manufacturer. By April 2006, at the Hanover Trade Fair, the usually reserved engineer was to be found in Hall 15, enthusiastically summing up his impressions of this latest dimension in E-CAD/CAE software.

His succinct analysis: "At last, we have the opportunity to bring many different engineering tools together on a worldwide basis." Many of GM's specific requirements were directly incorporated into the development of the software. "Going Common & Global" is the motto of this automotive giant, who, together with its global operations, are currently in the process of replacing the predecessor versions, EPLAN 5 and EPLAN 21, with the new EPLAN Electric P8 E-CAD/CAE system.

“When a major auto manufacturer like General Motors chooses a CAE tool, its decision is based on careful consideration. In this particular case, the main objectives were to establish a uniform global standard for all plants, facilitate engineering between different operations, and support both object-oriented and drawing-oriented working methods. With the automatic conversion of standards, the software can even update existing projects at a click of the mouse.”

ePLAN your engineering

FRIEDHELM LOH GROUP

FROM

two isolated systems
to one uniform global standard

“The dual data model ensures successful implementation.”

Thomas Michels, Product Manager at EPLAN



Graphical-oriented vs. object-oriented working methods

Global engineering poses significant challenges for large corporations wishing to unify their electrical engineering documentation. For example, European countries follow different standards than the USA or Asia. As a result, global projects often need to be converted to new languages, output formats and standards – an extremely time-consuming task for the designers.

The challenge at General Motors is that the company has used EPLAN 21 as its object-oriented system since 2002, while its subsidiaries Opel, Saab and Vauxhall as well as their suppliers have been using the graphical-oriented EPLAN 5 since the Nineties. Until now, the U.S. based auto company has had to live with this dichotomy. But all that is about to change. The new EPLAN Electric P8 system supports both graphical-oriented and object-oriented working methods alike.

“Customers no longer need to weigh the pros and cons of these two approaches,” stresses Thomas Michels, Product Manager at EPLAN. The software intuitively guides the designer to the most suitable operating concept for each given task. A user who starts off with a graphical-oriented approach can easily and smoothly switch to an object-oriented method later on.



SOFTWARE

& Services
for global engineering

International standards

The automatic conversion of standards is particularly appreciated by global players like GM, because it is imperative to comply with the adopted standards in each country. In the case of global production at GM, this means the software supports all international standards such as IEC 61346, JIC, NFPA or the Russian GOST. But that is not all – existing projects are automatically converted into the required local standard with defined standard templates, reports, forms and mapping of different symbol libraries. The software even automatically converts old projects into the desired standard. When finished, just one click, and they are e-mailed anywhere in the world by using the software's intelligent PDF export function.

Productivity from beginning

When a company makes the decision to switch to a new software platform, it wants to be able to get started right away. This is possible with EPLAN Electric P8. Not only does the software support flexible adaptation, but various tasks and work phases can also be configured and saved for re-accessibility whenever needed again. If, for example, PLC editing is the main focus of project design, the views and editing dialogs can be configured to bus and PLC data, allowing the relevant information to be immediately accessible for each editing stage.

Worldwide support

Although users will grasp the software immediately, training courses enable them to maximize their benefits from the design tool. EPLAN Software & Service has developed a custom training manual to help the employees of GM and its suppliers to work proficiently with the software while conforming to the uniform GM standards.

Worldwide support is invaluable and Daniel King appreciates the high level of service provided. // I cannot imagine achieving these major global targets without the support of EPLAN as our powerful partners. //



EPLAN Electric P8 is based on a platform system which supports both horizontal and vertical extensions.

The modular EPLAN Platform SUMMARY

Equally effective in fluid engineering

The modular EPLAN Platform provides a range of core functions which are equally essential for both electrical and fluid engineering design. The two CAD/CAE systems are fed from the same database and are based on a uniform platform. As well as a uniform database, the platform also includes basic functions such as the graphical editor (e.g. for wiring schematics and fluid diagrams), a uniform rights administration system, viewer, online foreign language translation, and a sophisticated revision management system.

The benefit for users is that the uniform database and object orientation support online references between different document types. Amendments to one point are immediately made available to all relevant functions – be it electrical or fluid engineering. EPLAN Fluid, the powerful engineering tool for hydraulics and pneumatics, is now a specified requirement for GM suppliers worldwide.

Find out more about General Motors on www.gm.com

ePLAN Your Engineering



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Published in 2006