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Delivering flexible engineering excellence

When ContiTech Beattie wanted to reduce paper documentation for its customers, it needed the right publishing solution. After being introduced to the Autodesk Inventor Publisher beta testing programme in 2009 by Autodesk reseller Symetri, things began to change. The engineering company now produces better illustrated quotations, realistic training materials and has plans for online documentation.

“It’s practically seamless. What would take me a week to produce in Autodesk Inventor, I can do in a matter of hours. The cost-savings alone are phenomenal,”

John Cay

Project Design Engineer
ContiTech Beattie Ltd

ContiTech Beattie Ltd operates in the oil and marine business, designing and manufacturing fluid management systems. Products include hoses and couplings, high pressure drilling and production hoses, fluid handling systems and hose management. Based in Northumberland, ContiTech Beattie is a subsidiary of ContiTech AG, a division of tyre and automotive systems manufacturer Continental AG.

The Autodesk Inventor Professional suite - which includes powerful 2D and 3D design tools - is at the heart of the business. Before evaluating Autodesk Inventor Publisher in 2009, customer documentation was paper-based.

“We had an issue with our technical documentation. It was a lot of reading,” said Project Design Engineer **John Cay**. *“We needed to look at this from a user background - what’s the client getting out of it?”*

Customers were given A3-sized files containing drawings, product information and operational instructions. The files were considered bulky and awkward with translation requirements compounding the problems. A better solution was required.

“We wanted to try and simplify our technical documentation and make it easier and more accessible. We were trying to reduce the environmental impact by reducing the amount of paper too.”

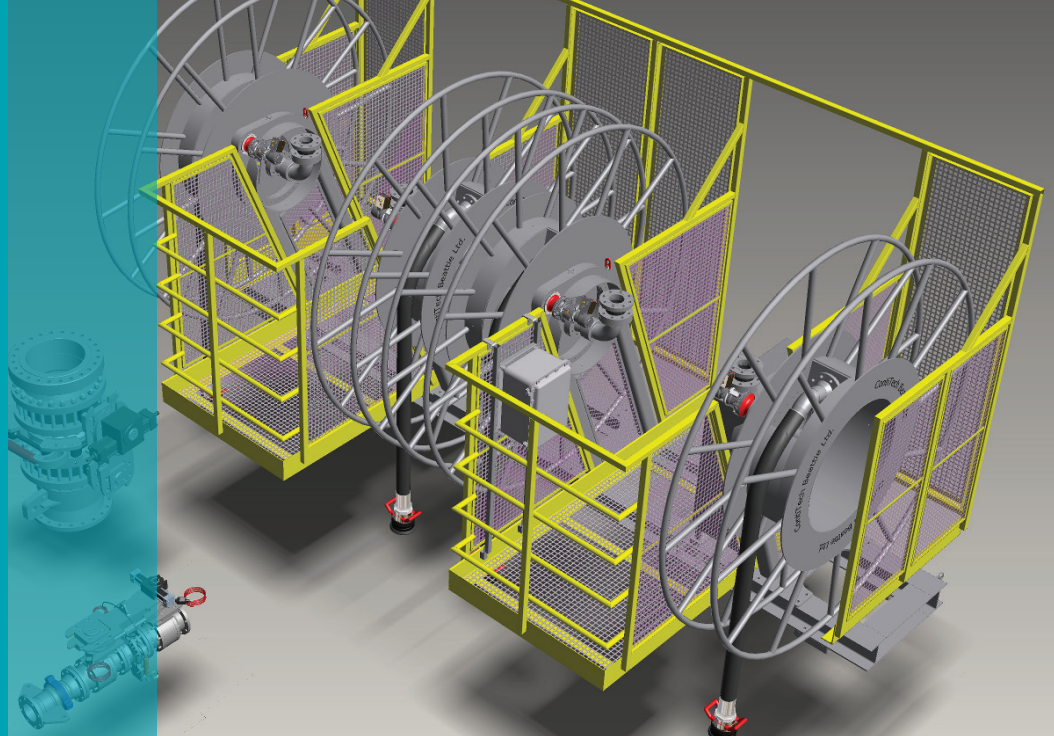
Taking its cue from car maintenance manuals, ContiTech Beattie started creating simple exploded diagrams using Autodesk Inventor. This proved time-consuming so Symetri was asked for advice. Over the years, it had become a reliable “one-stop shop” covering hardware, software, training, service and support.

Thanks to Symetri, ContiTech Beattie joined the beta test programme for Autodesk Inventor Publisher. A trial project quickly led to a decision to use the software for customer quotations.

High-quality rendered 3D images have since enhanced proposals with customers preferring 3D models over general arrangement drawings. Importing data from Autodesk Inventor to make exploded diagrams is easy.

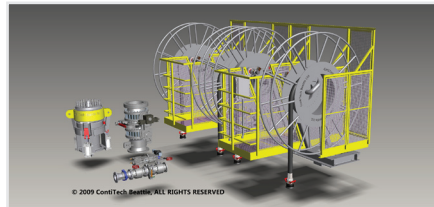
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When a customer wanted the changeover procedures explained for a 15 metre long high-pressure hose weighing 7.5 tonnes, ContiTech Beattie turned to Autodesk Inventor Publisher. The changeover meant very careful handling and lifting, following step-by-step procedures to avoid mistakes.

“The client asked for training material that could be used in a toolbox talk. We came up with a proposal within Inventor, transferred that model across into Publisher and produced an animation.”



“Symetri are a one-stop shop for all our Autodesk needs - hardware, software, training, service and support. They have never let me down.”

John Cay

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The video animation showed the entire process utilising close-ups of parts. It proved very realistic, helping field operators understand precisely what is required. For example, the software automatically fills in the animation steps for unscrewing nuts from their defined start and end positions.

ContiTech Beattie now uses Autodesk Inventor Publisher with great success. This powerful yet flexible package continues to save time and money, helping explain products visually in documentation - exploding and even animating 3D assemblies where required. It's a useful competitive edge in helping prospects understand what the company offers.

“We use it to produce a lot of animations and static images, strip-downs and exploded diagrams,” said Cay. “Autodesk Inventor Publisher is enabling a clearer understanding and better communication with our customers. It also helps to eliminate language barriers.”

The company now intends to put technical documentation created with Autodesk Inventor Publisher securely online. But one of its most-compelling uses is for 3D PDFs containing images which, when clicked, can be manipulated on screen. When illustrations in technical documents come to life, its customers can interact like never before.