



**SYMETRI**  
LEAN PLM  
with  
SOVELIA &  
Autodesk Vault

## Arctic Machine Manages Product Information with Sovelia and Vault



**The Finnish manufacturer Arctic Machines is the leading manufacturer of road maintenance equipment in Northern Europe. The company has designed their products using Autodesk Inventor for a decade and recently optimized the operation by implementing the product lifecycle management system; Symetri Lean PLM with Autodesk Vault and Sovelia.**

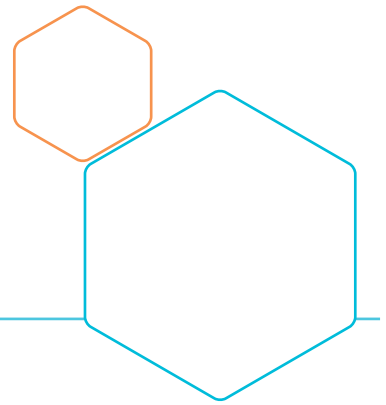
Text: Jouko Lampila, Photo: Jouko Lampila & Arctic Machines

Arctic Machine is an internationally operating Finnish family company focusing on manufacturing road maintenance equipment. The company is one of the few in the business that is able to equip an entire road maintenance unit with its own products. The turnkey delivery starts with a truck's chassis and often covers all the equipment for snow removal, deicing, road cleaning, and complete automatic control for the management of the entire unit.

**From construction in Inventor towards process optimization with product lifecycle management**

According to product development manager, Petteri Tervamäki, Arctic Machine has been using Inventor for ten years.

**”** *We were pondering the design and product data management tools for a few years, when in the summer of 2012, we decided to launch a project to acquire the system. We are talking about a large entirety, and we spent the rest of the year working on the specifications - and we could have spent even more time.*



In the past, Arctic Machine had access to its own database for document management. As the company grew by acquiring another manufacturing company, Salon Terästyö, the need for a major PLM system became more critical, as the 3D models were managed differently in the two companies. Hence, the specifications had to be equal.



capable of delivering support accordingly and immediately. Having signed an agreement with Symetri who delivers the complete solution, Arctic Machine gets the full potential from both product vendors. Also, the personal guidance, consultancy and support is available at one single phone number, as they support both the design software and the product lifecycle management system.

” Together with Symetri, we implemented Sovelia and Autodesk Vault, Tervämäki says. –The designer uses Vault during the work process for managing design documents. Items and product structures, as well as documentation, are generated through the interface into Sovelia, automatically. In the past, we saved all the drawings manually in a folder structure on our server located at our head office.

” In the past, the designer or the purchaser had to know in which of the server’s folders the latest version of each document could be found, Tervämäki recalls. – Now, they find the items and documents quickly and reliably with Sovelia’s search tools. For example, all the drawings and part lists, related to main configuration of the product, can be collected by one function. Before the implementation, we had to handle everything manually.

” How did we survive before? We should have started using Sovelia ten years ago – at the same time as Inventor was introduced as a design tool. It would have saved us from many of mistakes and worries. Also, the time spent for the designer searching for drawings upon request from the purchaser or production supervisor, was costly. Now they can easily find the drawings themselves using Sovelia, Tervämäki states.

## **Sovelia should have been taken into use years ago**

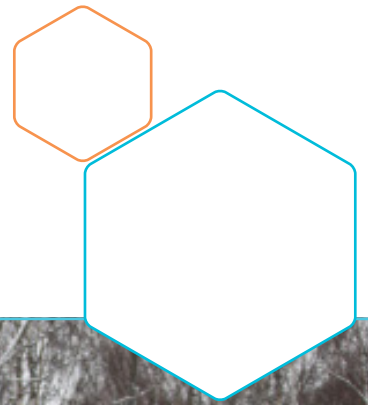
After deciding to acquire the PLM-system, Arctic Machine took 4-5 potential system suppliers for comparison. Among these potential system suppliers Arctic Machine did a thorough investigation and gained the best understanding of the selection criteria. According to Tervämäki, one of the most important things was the support of the Inventor design system.

When Autodesk launches a new version of Inventor and Vault the benefit is that Sovelia is

## **Much more development in the years to come**

According to Tervämäki, the implementation ran smoothly thanks to Symetri and the expertise they delivered in the process of implementing Sovelia. Their support answers questions quickly and the industry expertise is good. When working with the specifications, the problem is of course, knowledge of the client’s specific products. That knowledge needs to come from inside the company.





The next step for Arctic Machine is to transfer product information automatically into the ERP system. After running multiple tests around interface etc., the company still has to consider the possibility of replacing their present ERP system before making the planned transfer from Sovelia.

After handling the ERP integration, the next step will be implementing Sovelia to support Sales processes and Service business. It will be of great benefit as the products are highly customized and there are dozens, if not hundreds of versions. According to Tervamäki, the topic has already been subject to a lot of meetings, as there are still many basic things that have to be done, internally. However, when the company has decided on the next steps, the future will bring even more development and automation to strengthen the processes at Arctic Machine.

