

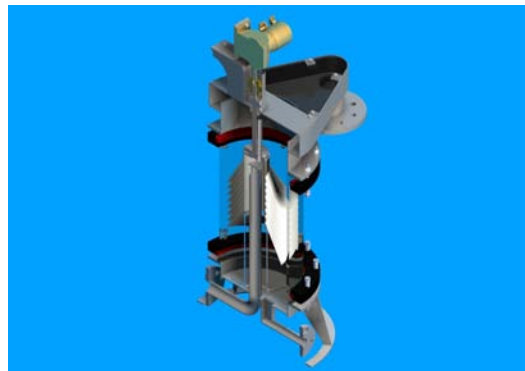
Customer Profile



Solid Edge helps Delkor to distinguish itself from the competition.

Founded in 1974, Bristol-based Delkor Ltd, together with its affiliated companies on five continents, specialises in the design and production of solid/liquid separation equipment for the chemical, mineral processing and environmental industries. Often required for use in extremely aggressive or toxic applications, such as phosphoric and boric acid recovery in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and dewatering in the minerals processing and flue gas desulphurisation industries, the company's products include horizontal belt vacuum filters with filtration areas up to 200 sq. m. or more, as well as large-scale thickeners and clarifiers for a variety of industrial applications.

Delkor decided to find out whether or not one of the latest 3D solid modelling-based mechanical computer-aided design systems could help them improve the design process. Bearing in mind the limitations of their existing 2D system, they were looking for four things from a new 3D system: the ability to standardise and automate the detail drafting process; the ability to visualise a new design in 3D for design review purposes; the ability to accelerate the design iteration process; and the ability to track and manage design revisions automatically. After looking in detail at all the mid-range solid modelling systems on the market, the decision was made to replace their existing 2D drafting system with Solid Edge.



"At the end of the day, Solid Edge emerged as the clear winner", says Chris Tarr, senior design draftsman at Delkor, who was part of the evaluation team. "Compared with the other systems we looked at Solid Edge provided the best value for money. And just as importantly, we found it to be the most user-friendly. This meant we could be up and running with it sooner, without the need to invest more time and expense in lengthy training courses."



With the installation of Solid Edge complete, Delkor's design team then began the gradual transition from a 2D drafting-based to a 3D modelling-based design environment, starting with a number of relatively simple projects. Using the on-line tutorials in Solid Edge to guide them through the 3D solid modelling process they soon became familiar with the new way of working and were ready to undertake their first major design project with Solid Edge.

Summing up the benefits of 3D solid modelling-based design with Solid Edge, Delkor's Chris Tarr says, "Accuracy and speed are the two main benefits to us of using Solid Edge. It considerably accelerates the design iteration process, so we have more time to explore alternatives."

"The 3D visualisation facilities help us to see more easily where changes are needed during the design process. We can ensure design integrity through structural and finite element analysis on parts by exporting models to 3rd party analysis software. Finally, because it allows us to adopt a top down approach to modelling, the final model will be correct. This means that all detail drawings are correct, which reduces errors down the line."