



Sumitomo Drive Technologies

A CASE STUDY

A CADDi Success Story

Transforming “Searching”
into “Solving” with Sumitomo
Drive Technologies

Before

60 years worth of data was spread across many different systems, requiring a major time investment to use. Locating prior work, reference designs, or application context often required manual effort, limiting how quickly teams could build on existing expertise.

After

With over 50,000 documents and drawings centralized with CADDi, design engineers could find any reference material with ease, opening up time for high-value tasks and process transformation.

The Challenge

When decades of expertise become scattered across systems

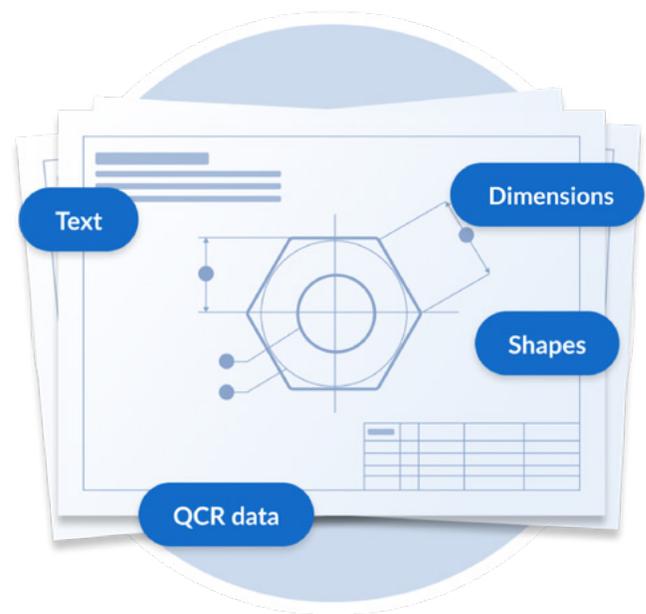
Founded in 1966, Sumitomo Machinery Corporation of America (SMA) operates under the brand Sumitomo Drive Technologies, delivering power transmission and control solutions across a broad range of industries. Over decades of growth, expanded engineering scope, and strategic investment, SMA has built a deep library of institutional knowledge—including prior designs, revision notes, documentation, and application expertise. In total, the organization works with more than 26,000 drawings and 32,000 engineering documents, representing decades of engineering experience and problem-solving insight.

This information had been organized into a multitude of specialized systems, such as PLM, CAD, ERP, shared drives, and other data tools. Each of these systems was organized for their own purposes and did their jobs well, but there was no easy way to connect the dots between systems. Answering everyday questions required spending time searching multiple systems and manually correlating data between them. This was a process that would take hours, time that could be better spent on execution and other high value work.

Making your past data into a true digital asset

SMA discovered CADDi while searching for ways to reduce this search time. After loading up their historical data into CADDi's system, our manufacturing-specific AI was able to centralize them into one searchable, organized database.

The benefits were dramatic and immediate. What used to be a tedious, many-stage search process across many systems has become a speedy singular search in CADDi. SMA estimates that the new searching process is 90% faster than before.



“Research that used to be a struggle is now seamless. I’ve seen a 90% reduction in the time it takes to find data, allowing me to locate critical information in minutes rather than hours.”



Thony Aceituno
Senior Design Checker

Shortening lead time with smart design reuse

When new orders come in to SMA, they’re often complex, requiring a lot of time spent to parse requirements and develop a production plan. The design pre-planning can be a significant contributor to lead time. However, if a similar project was produced in the past, many decisions can be carried over, resulting in huge time savings. The problem is that tracking down the similar project often took longer than the time it saved: searching through multiple systems, correlating different pieces of data, and manually checking if the previous designs overlapped enough.

With CADDi, things are different. Similarity searching on designs can instantly surface past designs that closely match new orders. This allows for a huge head start in fulfilling the new order, saving weeks of design work, shortening lead times for customers, and increasing the capacity of the shop.

“By locating a past design that closely matched our new requirements, we were able to reclassify a complex project into a streamlined execution. This capability allowed us to save weeks of design work and significantly shorten the lead time for our customer.”



Hugo Duarte
Design Engineering Manager

When time is saved in these areas, it can be spent on high value problem solving instead. Engineers can work more strategically, innovating and iterating on past lessons, rather than having to constantly reinvent the wheel. SMA has increased productivity on big challenges, such as product innovation, global standardization, and design revision.

“CADDi is a game-changer for us. It empowers our team to get beyond simply making drawings and focus their energy on solving complex problems for our customers.”



Tony Barlett
VP and COO

SMA plans on expanding their usage of CADDi to assist in their design review process, allowing for continuous improvement without sacrificing rigor or efficiency.

“We are just at the beginning of this collaboration. Our vision is to expand this centralized knowledge base beyond North America, creating a truly global engineering asset that unifies our expertise worldwide.”

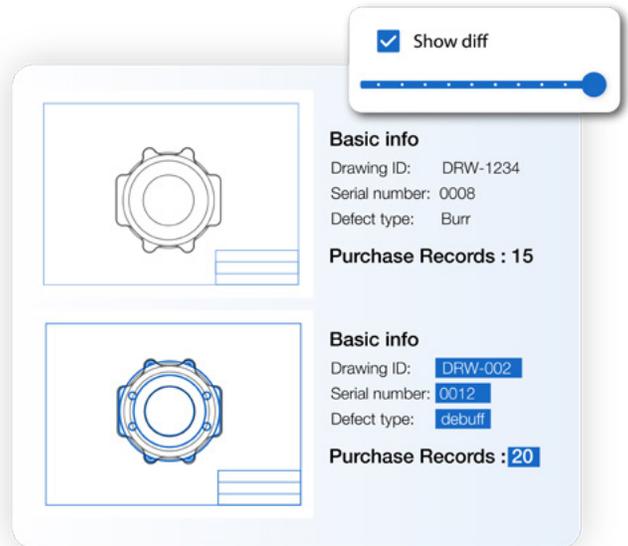


Sara Zimmerman
VP of Customer Experience & Product

Building for success with high-touch onboarding

As SMA got up to speed with CADDi, they realized that this wasn't just a tool to add to their process, or even just the basis of a new process. It was an entirely new way to think about their data. Things were possible now that hadn't been imaginable before.

In order to ensure that SMA was able to get the most out of CADDi, our customer success team worked with them to discover opportunities for deeper utilization and change.



“The velocity of this project’s success is unprecedented. The seamless collaboration between our teams, and specifically the dedicated support from CADDi’s Customer Success group, turned this engagement into a tremendous driver of change for our organization.”



Stephan Britz
Director of Engineering



Members of the Sumitomo Drive Technologies and CADDi teams during a recent visit.