

Cummins, Inc. **Columbus, Indiana (Global Headquarters)**

Since 1984, Thinkpath has been providing engineering services to Cummins, Inc.

Background

Historically, Cummins utilized their internal technical publications department to produce their parts catalogs. Cummins technical writers were responsible for all of the research, development and technical writing associated with the parts catalogs. Additionally, Cummins tech pubs department coordinated the graphic's requirements with an "outside" supplier. (Cummins supplied blue prints of the required drawings once they were released for manufacturing.) The graphics supplier would create the necessary line art and forward them to Cummins for review and insertion into the catalog. This process caused many catalogs to be released past their deadline.

In 1995, Cummins, Inc. approached Thinkpath to find a more efficient, cost effect method of producing parts catalogs.

Thinkpath Solution

Thinkpath performed an in-depth study of the existing Parts Catalog process and developed the following solution.

By utilizing existing ProENGINEER models, Thinkpath would be able to create line art for the Parts Catalog at a fraction of the cost of the current method. Additionally, Thinkpath would be able to begin the graphics "creation" process much earlier in the process. (Thinkpath was able to utilize the ProENGINEER models earlier in Cummins' drawing release cycle.) Thinkpath also became responsible for the research, development and technical writing. Efficiencies improved due to having the writer and illustrator working side-by-side, insuring superior communications.

Currently, Thinkpath has a team of three technical writers in support of Cummins Parts Catalogs.

Benefits

By utilizing Thinkpath's proven process, Thinkpath has been able to streamline the technical publications process, resulting in a quicker cycle of Cummins' Parts Catalogs. This enables Cummins to distribute the parts catalogs on time and at a fraction of the original cost.

