



Why Manufacturers Choose EAC for Windchill Implementations & Upgrades



Introduction: The Cost of Getting Windchill Wrong

For manufacturers, Windchill isn't just another enterprise system. It's the backbone of product data, engineering workflows, and cross-functional collaboration. When Windchill implementations or upgrades go wrong, the impact is immediate and costly: lost productivity, broken CAD

integrations, frustrated users, and increased operational risk.

Many organizations underestimate what it takes to successfully implement or upgrade Windchill. What looks like a technical exercise quickly becomes a business-critical initiative involving data integrity, process alignment, and user adoption.

This guide explains **why manufacturers consistently choose EAC** as their trusted partner for Windchill implementations and upgrades. It also shares how EAC helps organizations move beyond "just upgrading" to realizing measurable business value.

The Challenges Manufacturers Face with Windchill

Before discussing solutions, it's important to acknowledge the realities most manufacturers face:

Windchill versions that are several releases behind

Heavy customizations that no one fully understands anymore

Fragile CAD integrations and broken references

Inconsistent data models, lifecycles, and naming conventions

Internal teams stretched thin with day-to-day responsibilities

Fear of downtime, data loss, or user disruption

In many cases, organizations delay upgrades not because they don't see the need, but because the perceived risk feels too high.

What a Successful Windchill Implementation or Upgrade Actually Looks Like

A successful Windchill project isn't defined by the version number alone. Leading manufacturers evaluate success based on outcomes such as:

Predictable timelines and minimal business disruption

Stable CAD and PLM integrations

Clean, governed data structures

Improved system performance and usability

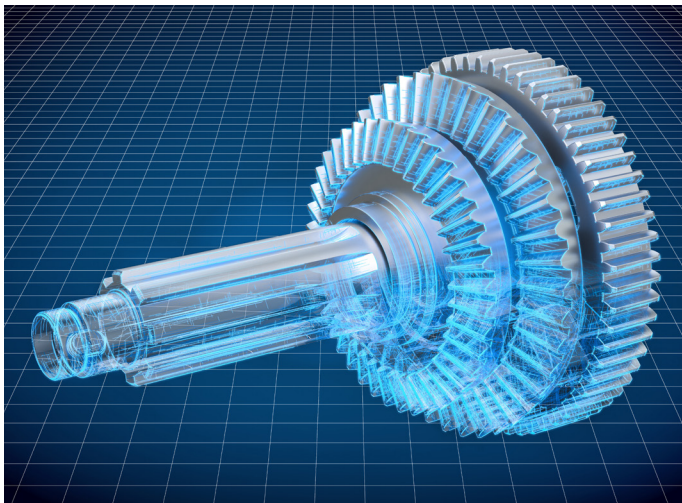
Increased user adoption and confidence

A platform that's easier to maintain and evolve

Achieving these outcomes requires more than technical expertise. It requires a structured, experience-driven approach.

What Sets EAC Apart

Manufacturers choose EAC because of how we approach Windchill projects, not just what we deliver.



1. Deep Windchill & CAD Expertise

EAC has decades of experience supporting manufacturers across Windchill implementations, upgrades, and modernizations. Our team understands not only Windchill itself, but the broader engineering ecosystem around it, including Creo, CAD integrations, simulation tools, and downstream systems.

This depth allows us to anticipate issues before they become problems.

2. A Proven, Structured Methodology

EAC does not approach Windchill projects as “lift-and-shift” exercises. Every engagement follows a disciplined methodology designed to reduce risk and increase predictability:

- ✓ Readiness and risk assessment before execution
- ✓ Clear scoping and success criteria
- ✓ Phased execution with validation checkpoints
- ✓ Defined rollback and contingency plans
- ✓ Structured testing and user acceptance

This approach ensures there are no surprises halfway through the project.

3. Partnership, Not Replacement

Manufacturers don’t choose EAC to replace their internal teams. They choose EAC to **augment and support them.**

EAC works side-by-side with engineering, IT, and PLM teams to:

- ✓ Reduce internal workload
- ✓ Transfer knowledge throughout the project
- ✓ Build confidence and capability for the future

The result is not just a successful upgrade, but a stronger internal team.

4. CAD + PLM Alignment Expertise

Many Windchill projects fail because CAD considerations are treated as an afterthought. EAC brings deep experience aligning Windchill with CAD environments to prevent:

- ✓ Broken references
- ✓ Performance degradation
- ✓ Version incompatibility
- ✓ User frustration

This alignment is critical to adoption and long-term system stability.

5. Modernization Built In

An upgrade is the ideal time to improve, not just migrate. EAC helps manufacturers identify opportunities to:

- ✓ Simplify over-customized configurations
- ✓ Improve governance and lifecycle consistency
- ✓ Eliminate technical debt
- ✓ Prepare the system for future growth and integrations

The result is a Windchill environment that’s easier to support and more valuable to the business.

6. Post-Go-Live Stability & Support

The real test of an upgrade happens after go-live. EAC provides post-implementation support to:

- ✓ Address early user issues
- ✓ Fine-tune performance
- ✓ Resolve unexpected edge cases
- ✓ Ensure teams are confident using the new environment

This stabilization period is essential to long-term success.

EAC's Windchill Implementation & Upgrade Approach

Phase 1: Discovery & Readiness Assessment

- ✓ Current-state analysis
- ✓ Risk identification
- ✓ Data and customization review
- ✓ CAD and integration evaluation

Phase 2: Planning & Scope Definition

- ✓ Version strategy
- ✓ Migration and testing plans
- ✓ Timeline and resource alignment
- ✓ Business impact assessment

Phase 3: Execution & Validation

- ✓ Environment setup
- ✓ Controlled migration
- ✓ Functional and user testing
- ✓ Issue remediation

Phase 4: Go-Live & Stabilization

- ✓ Production cutover
- ✓ User support
- ✓ Performance tuning
- ✓ Knowledge transfer

Real-World Outcomes Manufacturers See with EAC

Manufacturers working with EAC commonly report:

- ✓ Fewer system errors post-upgrade
- ✓ Improved CAD performance and stability
- ✓ Faster search and data access
- ✓ Reduced support tickets
- ✓ Higher user confidence and adoption
- ✓ A Windchill environment that's easier to maintain

These improvements translate directly into time savings, reduced risk, and better product development efficiency.

Common Myths About Windchill Upgrades

Myth	Reality
“An upgrade should be quick and inexpensive.”	Rushed upgrades often lead to long-term instability and higher costs.
“Our internal team can handle everything.”	Partner expertise reduces risk and frees internal teams to focus on core work.
“The newest version automatically delivers value.”	Value comes from alignment, cleanup, and adoption — not just features.

Is EAC the Right Partner for You?

EAC is often the right fit if:

- ✓ You're multiple versions behind Windchill
- ✓ Your system has heavy or aging customizations
- ✓ CAD integrations are fragile
- ✓ Internal resources are limited
- ✓ You want predictable outcomes, not surprises

Next Steps

If you're considering a Windchill implementation or upgrade, the best next step is understanding your current risk and readiness.

EAC can help you:

- ✓ Assess upgrade readiness
- ✓ Define scope and timeline
- ✓ Estimate business impact
- ✓ Reduce uncertainty before committing

If you're ready to reduce risk and modernize Windchill with confidence, EAC can help. Learn more about our Windchill implementation and upgrade services.

Next Step: Talk to An Implementation Expert

