The company turned to VisualFactory in 2009. Within just 2 years it achieved ROI – with re-work costs slashed by a staggering 75 per cent in one year alone. That figure is expected to rise to 90 per cent another year on.

The move to VisualFactory was led by Operations Director Mark Exeter.

“We were looking to get control of our work instructions – to get the knowledge out of people’s heads,” he explained.

“We were very much reliant on experience; products were built from people’s knowledge with limited written or detailed instructions, which were very often in people’s own notebooks.”

Of course that meant should those people leave, so did their expertise. Training new staff was a time-consuming process, and productivity and quality inconsistent.

“VisualFactory has had a huge impact on productivity and quality.” Mark continued. “It has given us control back.”

That can no better be illustrated than by looking at the staggering difference in the company’s re-working costs.

In 2011, the cost was £268,000.

By 2012, that figure was £52,000.

Mark attributes a giant 85 per cent of that drop to VisualFactory – and its ability to achieve Right First Time quality.

In 2013, it’s expected to be as low as £28,000, less than 10 per cent of the figure just two years previous.

“VisualFactory has allowed us to consistently build to cost, quality and time targets on our products,” Mark says.

“Since using VisualFactory to create our build instructions correctly, a large percentage of our problems have gone away – because we can now consistently control the product build process and its quality.

“It’s about going back to basics; yes you need to apply Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing methodologies but it’s about simplifying first and foremost. It’s VisualFactory that allows us to go back to basics – and I don’t think that can be overstated. If you’re getting the basics right, then everything else quickly falls into place.”

Mark describes the man behind VisualFactory - Nomuda’s Managing Director Phil Borland - as a “lean manufacturing guru.”

And he praises Nomuda’s commitment to ensuring VisualFactory continues to evolve.

“It’s very much a partnership. Nomuda are flexible, they’re open to changes and modifications.

“What they have is a very good product. There’s nothing else available that compares.”

SAAB SEAWEYE
Case study

World leader in underwater vehicles, Saab Seaeye is the world’s largest manufacturer of electric Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and now includes Saab’s underwater vehicle range of tethered, autonomous and hybrid underwater vehicle systems for the defence industry. It sets the benchmark by which all electric powered ROVs are compared today.

“VisualFactory has given us control back”