

Need a spare part? It's dot.com to the rescue

Through the wonders of the Internet, Rugby Cement spares are now visible at RMC sites worldwide.

As part of its integration into the RMC Group, Rugby Cement has signed a contract with the Internet company sparesFinder.com. The deal makes stocks of high-value engineering spare parts held by Rugby Cement visible at all RMC companies globally.

sparesFinder.com's service has two big advantages for the Group. First, when a crucial spare part is needed, it is possible to see exactly which Rugby Cement site has one and get hold of it quickly. Less downtime means fewer production losses. Second, companies have no need to buy spares if they are already held in the Group; spares are expensive both to buy and store, so using what the Group already has frees up capital.

Simple

This is how it works. In return for an annual subscription, sparesFinder.com provides some simple software which regularly uploads the spares inventory of all Rugby Cement sites onto the

sparesFinder database. If you need a part and it is not in stock on your site, go to www.sparesfinder.com and click the 'log in' icon. Using the subscriber ID '103229' and the password 'rmcgroup', you can then punch in a description of the part you need. Within a few minutes you will have a list of the Rugby Cement sites where that part is held plus contact details.

The sparesFinder service has further potential. Its unique feature – co-operation through the horizontal linking of the spares inventories of subscribers – means that it is also possible, should the decision be taken, to let non-RMC companies see Rugby Cement's surplus spares. This would enable them, for instance, to buy redundant stock from the Group – far better than sending it to the tip! Many big names around the globe, including BP Amoco, Du Pont, Mobil and AMEC, are using the service to speed their search for spares and to save capital costs.

The issue of surplus assets and spares at Rugby sites due for closure was discussed at one of the early RMC/Rugby integration meetings. The potential to make

these items available for use elsewhere in the RMC Group, reducing the amount written off or scrapped, was quickly identified.

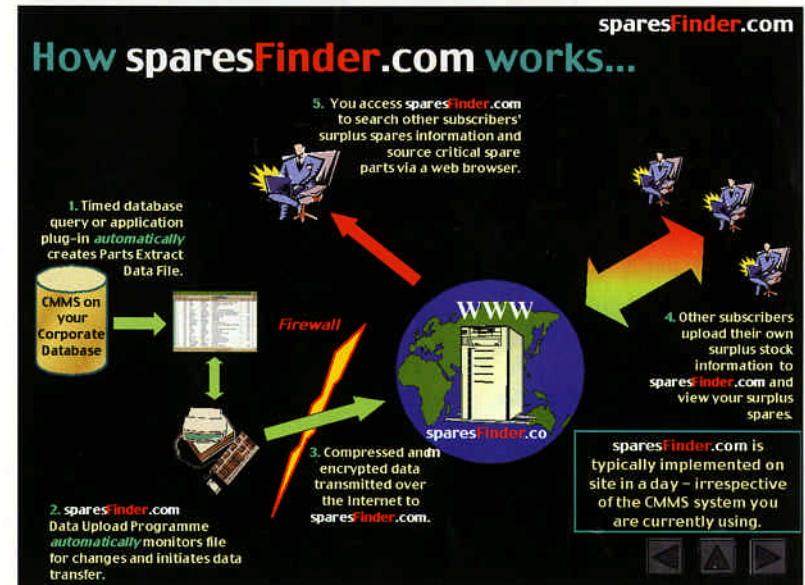
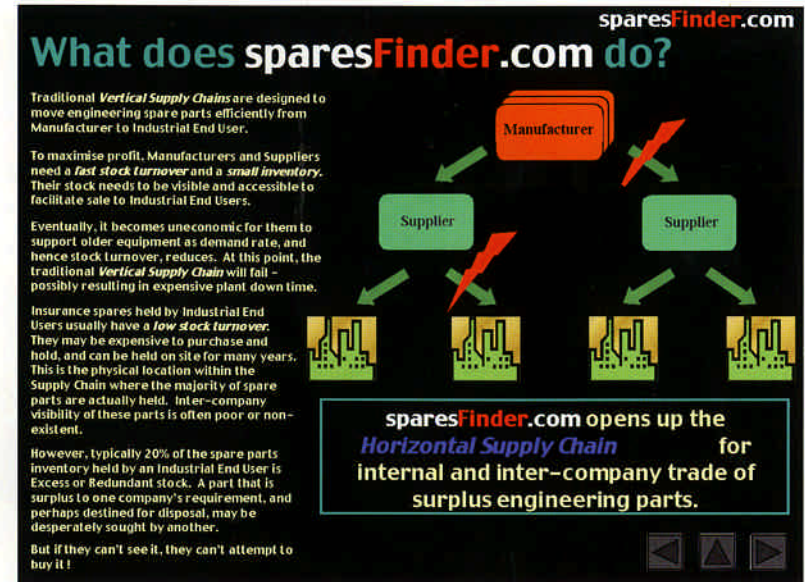
Surplus

sparesFinder.com had previously been looked at by Rugby as a possible means of disposing of surplus assets and spares outside the company.

Nick Sutherland, Engineering Improvement Manager at Rugby Cement, explains: "Following several meetings and demonstrations of the system, it was obvious this could be a quick and easy solution to providing global visibility, not only to Rugby's spares but those of the whole RMC Group."

Some 35,000 of Rugby's stock items have now been uploaded onto the system. The details are updated automatically every week and the aim is to include RMC stock items in the near future.

"The inclusion of redundant and surplus assets – plant and machinery – is proving a little more difficult but should be achieved by the third quarter of this year," he said.



Above: How sparesFinder.com works