

Elka puts BIM library online

Barrier and driver manufacturer Elka from Tönning in northern Germany has compiled a BIM library for its most important products. The library will make it easier to visualise and plan structures and installations with Elka products.

“More and more architects, engineers and project developers are going for BIM when they are planning their projects,” says Timo Prielipp, Elka’s Sales Manager. “That is why we wanted to make our products available in a BIM library, so that they can be used for planning from the very first design.”

BIM

BIM is short for Building Information Modeling. It is a way of designing, planning and building that enables all the involved parties to collaborate on the same project 'in the cloud'. 3D models, specification texts and technical specifications are digitally brought together in a single (online) location and are always available in an up-to-date database. If a structural engineer calculates that a foundation needs to be larger, for example, they can adjust the architect's drawings. And the installer who has to pull the cables, can check the drawing to see which empty duct is meant for which cable.

Library

The so-called BIM library was created to make sure that everyone has access to the same data and can easily integrate objects into their project. *“It brings together the 3D drawings for every product in all commonly used formats – Revit, ArchiCAD, SketchUp, Vectorworks and AutoCAD – and all other relevant data such as specification texts and technical data, in German and English,”* Prielipp explains. *“Anyone who wants use one of our products in their plan can download that product from the library and then very easily import it into their project.”* Elka’s BIM library is available for free from the Swedish platform Bimobject. *“They are a world leader in BIM content. We make sure that the data on that platform is always kept up to date.”*

Products

Elka keeps data online for two parking barriers, including one with an articulated arm, an industrial barrier and a barrier for toll gates. There is also data for an intercom pillar for passenger cars and lorries, and a library for fixed and moving bollards. *“We are already producing all new 3D models, texts and data according to the BIM standard,”* says Prielipp. *“This is ideal for customers, architects and planners: they always have up-to-date data as they can find all the important data in one location, and visualise their buildings and installations in a realistic way. It is an incredibly efficient working method.”* ■

