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CIMdata News

Top 12 Trends and Enablers to Unlock Every Digital Transformation

27 August 2021

Read the most recent publication by CIMdata's President and CEO Peter Bilello on Engineering.com.

[The article can be found here.](#)

Acquisitions

Accenture Acquires Gevity to Bolster Health Transformation Service Capabilities in Canada

2 September 2021

Accenture has acquired Gevity, a strategy and consulting service provider focused on helping healthcare industry clients transform their businesses through innovative technology solutions, to expand its capabilities to deliver health transformation services in Canada and internationally. The terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Headquartered in Victoria, B.C., Gevity was founded in 1995 and has grown into an established health consulting firm with a team of nearly 100 experts and practitioners across Canada who support clients globally. Gevity works with organizations that span the continuum of healthcare, from providers as well as public and private payers to regulators and healthcare non-profit stakeholder organizations.

The firm specializes in providing strategic consultancy services to health sector clients spanning capability areas such as health systems integration, informatics and analytics, and solution implementation and program management. Gevity also leads clients through digital transformations and information systems design implementations. In addition, Gevity offers proprietary methods and tools to support its work, including project and program management, inter-organizational collaboration, and health informatics. A key differentiator for Gevity is its strategic use of interdisciplinary teams comprised of practitioners with experience in clinical, technical and administrative roles in healthcare settings.

“The addition of Gevity will expand our capabilities in delivering health transformation services in Canada and other global markets,” said Jeffrey Russell, president of Accenture in Canada. “Gevity’s talented team and track record of success combined with Accenture’s national leadership in transformation services and strong ecosystem partnerships will strengthen our capabilities from coast to coast. Moreover, the acquisition positions Accenture to lead the wave of tech-enabled health innovation that places people’s health at the center to improve access, experience, and outcomes.”

Jane Kerr, managing director and Canadian client group lead for resources, provincial and public health at Accenture, said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need for health organizations to modernize their technology systems and restructure their operating models to reduce costs and be more efficient. Gevity’s experienced team of professionals will significantly enhance our ability to harness the power of technology and human ingenuity to lead change for Canadian public and private health organizations as they look to complete large-scale transformations.”

In addition to the Victoria headquarters, Gevity has people located across Canada in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as in the United States and the Philippines, who will join Accenture.

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“Over the last 25 years, Gevity has been focused on delivering on its mission to enable a healthier world by helping clients modernize for the future,” added Marc Koehn, CEO of Gevity. “By joining Accenture’s global Health practice, with its leading capabilities in digital, design, cloud, security and customer experience, we can together have a greater impact on the transformation of Canada’s healthcare industry and open up exciting career opportunities for our team members.”

Gevity is the second acquisition for Accenture Canada in 2021 to bolster its strength and capabilities in the Canadian market. In July, Accenture acquired Cloudworks, a leading Oracle Cloud service provider based in Toronto. In 2020, Accenture acquired Avenai, an Ottawa consultancy focused on public service organizations, and Callisto Integration, an Oakville, Ontario, provider of consulting and technology services in digital manufacturing in food and beverage, chemicals, utilities and other industries.

Accenture Completes Acquisition of Google Cloud Services Boutique Wabion

2 September 2021

Accenture has completed the acquisition of Wabion, a Google Cloud services boutique with headquarters in Esslingen, Germany and Olten, Switzerland as well as additional offices in Munich, Cologne and Lausanne. Terms of the transaction, which Accenture announced on July 14, were not disclosed.

As a Google Cloud services provider, Wabion offers a full spectrum of consulting and implementation services for Google Cloud Platform and Google Workspace solution, including integration, development, licensing, and training. Founded in 2004, Wabion has worked with established companies and digital natives on their cloud migrations, on cloud native app development to build new cloud-based solutions and on Google Workspace deployments for online collaboration and workforce productivity.

Wabion is a Google Cloud Premier partner and well-recognized for its deep expertise of Google Cloud innovations and technological developments. The team of more than 60 professionals will join Accenture’s Google Cloud Business Group, part of Accenture Cloud First.

Addnode Group enters Polish market with acquisition of Budsoft

1 September 2021

Addnode Group announces that the company has acquired Polish Budsoft Sp. z o.o. (Budsoft). Budsoft is a leading Dassault Systèmes partner, providing advanced simulation solutions. The company has seven employees and net sales of SEK 20 million.

Budsoft has been a partner of Dassault Systèmes for more than 15 years and works with the entire SIMULIA software portfolio, but also has an offer that includes advanced training, consulting services and support. Budsoft will become part of Addnode Group's company TECHNIA, and thus be part of its division Product Lifecycle Management.

It is with great joy that we today welcome a new company and new colleagues from a new market to TECHNIA. The acquisition of Budsoft means that we now establish presence in the Polish market and that we at the same time obtain new relationships with e.g. a number of subcontractors to the German car industry. Budsoft’s expertise in advanced simulation will also contribute to strengthening TECHNIA’s global Simulation Center of Excellence”, says Magnus Falkman, CEO Technia and Division President Product Lifecycle Management, Addnode Group.

Budsoft was founded in 1988 in the university city of Poznan in western Poland. Budsoft specializes in advanced simulation solutions, working with customers in many different industries, such as the

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automotive industry, space and defense industry, manufacturing, civil engineering, energy and infrastructure. In 1992, the company became a reseller of the simulation software Abaqus, which since 2005 has been part of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA portfolio.

Ansys to Acquire Zemax Pursuant to Definitive Acquisition Agreement

30 August 2021

Ansys, the global leader and innovator of engineering simulation software, announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Zemax, LLC, a leader in high-performance optical imaging system simulation. Once closed, the acquisition will expand the scope of Ansys' solution offering, giving users comprehensive, end-to-end solutions for simulating next-generation optical and photonics products. Those innovations range in scope from photonics-enabled circuits to precision vision systems to system-level illumination and could drive breakthroughs in healthcare, autonomy, consumer electronics and the industrial internet of things.

Modern products rely upon embedded optical systems for successful performance. Accurately imaging the physical world and predicting the performance of these imaging systems is critical in products as diverse as robotic surgery-assist systems, autonomous vehicles, machine vision cameras and aerospace and defense applications. These products depend on precision optical raytracing and reliable lens design, yet imaging system creation is an intricate task complicated by strict requirements for precision, tolerancing and manufacturability. Zemax provides users with unsurpassed precision and breadth in imaging simulation and optimization technologies.

With the addition of Zemax technologies, Ansys will offer customers a comprehensive solution for simulating the behavior of light in complex, innovative products – ranging from the microscale with the Ansys Lumerical™ photonics products, to the imaging of the physical world with Zemax, to human vision perception with Ansys Speos™. That comprehensive solution will enable users to create optimal designs more quickly by streamlining the workflow and communication among photonics, optical, mechanical and manufacturing engineers.

Based in Kirkland, Washington, Zemax has a 30-year track record of global success across industries. The company employs over 100 people around the world.

"Simulating the behavior of light – from creation to illumination – is becoming critical for the development of next-generation products," said Shane Emswiler, senior vice president, Ansys. "With the addition of the best-in-class technology from Zemax, Ansys' customers will benefit from a complete, end-to-end solution for simulating light."

"Zemax has been a leader in optical simulation since our founding 30 years ago," said S. Subbiah, CEO of Zemax. "Our mission is enabling customers to design sophisticated optical products and bring them to market faster. By joining forces with Ansys, we will quickly deliver Zemax's gold-standard imaging products to a wider audience and have an even greater impact on optical product development. It is a winning combination for our customers and for Ansys users across the globe."

Ansys entered into the definitive agreement to acquire Zemax with EQT Private Equity, the company's current owner. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2021, subject to receipt of regulatory clearance and the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions. The transaction is not expected to have a material impact on the 2021 financial results.

Atos completes the acquisition of German cryptography specialist cryptovision and strengthens its cybersecurity product line

1 September 2021

Atos announced that it has completed the acquisition of cv cryptovision GmbH, a leader in advanced cryptographic products and solutions for securing digital identities. In addition to bringing new technical capabilities and cybersecurity products to the Group's portfolio, the acquisition will enable Atos to expand its business in the public sector and defense market in Europe, to strengthen its position in global government eID initiatives, and to grow its footprint in emerging IoT markets.

cryptovision designs, develops and implements cryptography solutions, software and hardware products which are made in Germany and meet the most demanding regulations, certifications and security standards (accredited by the German Federal Office for Information Security and NATO; certified according to Common Criteria, ICAO and other international eID standards).

This cybersecurity acquisition joins those of Paladion, digital.security, SEC Consult, In Fidem and Motiv that were made over the past months. It further strengthens Atos's positioning as the key trusted cybersecurity partner for global organizations on their digital journeys.

Atos completes the acquisition of U.S. business intelligence firm Visual BI

3 September 2021

Atos announced it has completed the acquisition of Visual BI, one of the leading and fastest growing firms focusing exclusively on cloud data analytics and business intelligence in the U.S.

Benefiting from Visual BI's more than 180 employees with expertise in data analytics, consulting services and cloud partnerships, Atos will strengthen its capabilities in supporting organizations in their cloud data journey, from data centralization to high-value insight delivery.

Completing this acquisition, along with the acquisition of Maven Wave in 2020, reinforces the Group's strategic vision for data and cloud as the foundations of business transformation.

Rockwell Automation Completes Acquisition of Plex Systems

1 September 2021

Rockwell Automation, Inc., the world's largest company dedicated to industrial automation and digital transformation, announced that it has completed the acquisition of Plex Systems, the leading cloud-native smart manufacturing platform.

Plex offers the only single-instance, multi-tenant Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) manufacturing platform operating at scale, including advanced manufacturing execution systems, quality, and supply chain management capabilities. It has over 700 customers and manages more than 8 billion transactions per day. Plex will be reported as part of Rockwell's Software and Control operating segment which provides leading hardware and software offerings for the design, operation, and maintenance of production automation and management systems.

"Plex Systems joins Rockwell at the perfect time, as more customers are starting to move their industrial applications to the cloud," said Blake Moret, Chairman and CEO of Rockwell Automation. "Plex's software capabilities will be further differentiated by Rockwell's global market access, complementary industry expertise, and ability to turn real-time data into actionable insights. This will allow us to better serve our customers with cloud-native solutions that are easy to implement, use, and maintain. We are excited to complete this acquisition and welcome Plex and its employees into Rockwell."

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“Rockwell’s industrial and digital transformation leadership along with its geographic and industry scale make it the ideal home for the entire Plex Systems community of customers, partners, and employees,” said Bill Berutti, CEO of Plex Systems. “We are eager to integrate our Plex Smart Manufacturing Platform with Rockwell’s FactoryTalk suite to deliver on our commitment to optimize our customers’ operations and bring smart manufacturing to life.”

Today, Plex delivers tremendous value to customers in high-volume, highly repetitive discrete and process manufacturing sectors such as automotive parts, metal fabrication, electronics, food & beverage, and aerospace. Together with the advanced, cloud-native asset maintenance and management capabilities provided by Rockwell’s earlier acquisition of Fiix, the combined offering is ideal for customers in industries like life sciences and consumer packaged goods that are focused on complying with regulatory requirements and meeting consumer expectations in areas like product quality, safety, and sustainability.

HI-LEX, a leading global automotive supplier, is a customer of both Plex Systems and Rockwell Automation.

“At HI-LEX, our vision is to be a world-class manufacturer by providing quality, cost-effective, and on-time products on a global scale to our customers,” said Dr. Brad Semp, Chief Operating Officer of HI-LEX. “We’re excited to see these two industry-leading suppliers come together to accelerate our digital transformation and deliver on that vision.”

“We continue to see the adoption of cloud solutions accelerate within the industrial sector, but many struggle with how to best integrate these solutions into their operations to maximize benefits and minimize risk,” said Kevin Prouty, Group Vice President, Energy and Manufacturing Insights at IDC. “The acquisition of Plex Systems fits the strategy for Rockwell to meet manufacturers where they are and deploy systems that can be configured to meet specific needs.”

Synopsys Completes the Acquisition of the Semiconductor and Flat Panel Display Solutions from BISTel

2 September 2021

Synopsys, Inc. announced that it has completed the acquisition of the semiconductor and flat panel display solutions from BISTel, a leader in engineering equipment systems and AI applications for semiconductor smart manufacturing, headquartered in South Korea. The acquisition broadens Synopsys' industry-leading process control solutions for semiconductor fabs with an integrated and comprehensive yield management and prediction solution to enhance manufacturing quality and efficiency. The acquisition also adds a team of experienced engineers to accelerate technology development using real-time manufacturing predictive analysis.

The terms of the deal, which are not material to Synopsys' financials, are not being disclosed.

This acquisition advances our vision to provide innovative process control solutions to our customers. The combined expertise in machine learning, big data management and semiconductor process simulation with BISTel's technology and products will significantly contribute to maximizing semiconductor fab throughput and efficiency.

Company News

3D Repo & partners shortlisted for Health, Safety & Wellbeing Initiative of the Year

25 August 2021

We're excited to announce we have been shortlisted for the **Health, Safety & Wellbeing Initiative of the Year** at the British Construction Industry Awards 2021! Our new initiative, project training and inductions made easy (TIME) will replace generic training videos and presentations with live walkthroughs and 4D visualisations that can be understood in any language.

Project partners include 3D Repo, HS2, Balfour Beatty VINCI JV, Freeform, and Discovering Safety programme, and is being funded by Innovate UK, the UK's Innovation agency.

Ansys Expands Market in Japan with Improved Reach to Small and Medium-sized Businesses

1 September 2021

Ansys and SB C&S signed an agreement to expand the distribution of Ansys products in Japan. SB C&S's existing distribution channels, including a robust network of small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), will improve access to Ansys simulation solutions — advancing engineering and business opportunities in the region.

SB C&S, a subsidiary of SoftBank, offers cutting-edge products and services to its extensive sales channels. The addition of Ansys to its portfolio empowers SB C&S to offer industry-leading simulation solutions to existing customers while lowering the barrier to simulation adoption among previously unreached SMBs.

SMBs, which vastly outnumber large enterprises, play a critical role in the economy and in spurring innovation. Ansys and SB C&S share a commitment to maintaining a level playing field by ensuring businesses of all sizes have access to leading-edge solutions.

"Adding Ansys' industry leading technology to SB C&S's solution line up addresses the growing need for simulation among many of our customers," said Kazuya Kusakawa, Board Director, Executive Vice President, Head of ICT Unit of SB C&S. "Companies of all sizes understand the need to invest in digital transformation initiatives that open the door to improved business outcomes and disruption. Simulation is a critical component of this revolution, and we believe introducing Ansys solutions to our customers will better position them for the future."

"SB C&S has built impressive distribution channels in Japan thanks to its high-quality service and offerings," said Rick Mahoney, senior vice president of worldwide sales, marketing and customer excellence at Ansys. "We are excited to join the SB C&S portfolio and leverage the increased accessibility to simulation solutions its partner network provides. The synergy between Ansys and SB C&S will enable previously unreached businesses to build more advanced products with the efficiency and agility required in our increasingly digital world."

BPX Named Altair Channel Partner for Data Analytics in EMEA

2 September 2021

Altair, the global leader converging simulation, HPC, and AI, signed a new channel partner agreement with BPX S.A., based in Wroclaw, Poland. BPX will manage sales and support responsibility for

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Altair's data analytics and AI portfolio in Poland. This agreement is an important step to further expand Altair's data analytics partner network in the EMEA region.

With many Polish-based companies in need of state-of-the-art data solutions, this partnership will provide the required technology and support locally. Founded in 2006, BPX offers advanced solutions for enterprise resource planning (ERP), business intelligence, and IT service management. Capitalizing on its skilled, global workforce, established partnerships, deep consulting expertise, and the BPX Solution Center Network, BPX is an ideal partner to sell and support Altair's data analytics solutions.

"We are pleased to announce the addition of BPX to our channel partner community in Eastern Europe," said Kimon Afsaridis, vice president of indirect sales and Eastern Europe managing director, Altair.

"This strategic collaboration will guarantee continuous growth for both companies within the fast-growing data analytics and artificial intelligence markets. As the newest member of our channel community, we are confident that BPX has the skills and expertise to support the growing usage of data analytics solutions in Eastern Europe with Altair technologies."

"As a consulting company, we seek data analytics tools that are flexible, innovative, and easy to implement; solutions that will allow our clients to develop independently and offer value for their businesses, translating quickly into real benefits. This is exactly what we found in Altair's data analytics and AI solutions," said Michał Osoba vice president and business intelligence department director, BPX S.A. Poland. "We look forward to our collaboration with Altair and to growing the Polish market for data analytics solutions."

Altair's channel partner community is actively expanding globally to reach all industries and regions.

CFO Tomas Eliasson to leave Sandvik

30 August 2021

Tomas Eliasson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, CFO, for Sandvik has decided to leave his position as of October 31, 2021, after more than five years in the Group.

"Tomas Eliasson has been a key member of Sandvik Group's Executive Management since 2016 and I'm very thankful for his contributions to the Group over the years. He has played an essential role in the decentralization of Sandvik and in making the company more agile and flexible. Tomas has established a very solid governance model for us to ensure strong results in our different divisions and to deliver stable margins as a Group over time", says Stefan Widing, President and CEO of Sandvik.

The recruitment process for a new CFO has been initiated. Until a permanent solution has been found, Cecilia Felton, currently Vice President Group Control, will serve as the company's interim CFO effective as of November 1. Tomas Eliasson will until February 1, 2022, also be available to ensure a smooth transition.

CIMdata ranks CONTACT Software among the world's leading PLM providers

26 August 2021

CIMdata's analyses have long been a valuable source of information for the industry when it comes to the global PLM market. The international consulting and market research company publishes annual reports that attract worldwide attention. They offer a well-founded overview of technological trends, the development of sales and the current leading software providers - each graded according to different market segments.

According to CIMdata, CONTACT Software is one of the providers driving the PLM market with its

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products and services and addressing the current challenges of the industry with comprehensive solutions. CONTACT's open, modular low-code platform Elements and the CIM Database PLM modules based on it, which companies can combine flexibly, are leading the way here.

When comparing providers, the analysts divide the PLM market into three main segments: software manufacturers that cover the entire spectrum of collaborative product development (collaborative Product Definition Management, cPDm), tools (CAx, simulation, etc.) and digital manufacturing. CONTACT Software takes a top spot in the first category. The key CIMdata criteria here are "...core cPDm functional capabilities, often including broad suites of technologies as well as consulting and implementation services focused on providing full solutions to address major industry problems for their customers."

You can find the current PLM report from CIMdata [here](#).

DELTEK EARNS GOLD BRANDON HALL GROUP HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

1 September 2021

Deltek, the leading global provider of software and solutions for project-based businesses, announced today it is a recipient in the 2021 Brandon Hall Group's Excellence in Human Capital Management (HCM) Awards. The awards are given to firms that show excellence in learning and development, talent management, leadership development, talent acquisition, human resources, sales performance, diversity, equity & inclusion and the future of work.

Deltek earned a Gold award in the Best Advance in Performance Management category. By partnering with Quantum Workplace, Deltek transformed its performance management program to drive a culture of continuous conversation to enable greater performance and increased engagement. The new program provides flexibility that allows it to evolve right along with the company's constant growth.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the Brandon Hall Group. This win is a result of the great work our people managers are doing in cascading the Performance Management process to their direct reports, and all our employees that take the time to collaborate in Quantum Workplace," said Ed Hutner, SVP of Human Resources at Deltek. "In addition, we thank Quantum Workplace for their partnership. With their help, we have been able to improve the tools and processes that our employees use to have productive conversations and stay engaged."

"We are proud to be Deltek's partner in helping improve performance management across the organization. The Deltek team diligently implemented our software to maximize their workforce and business operations. It is a distinct honor to see their hard work and subsequent results recognized in this prestigious competition. This award is demonstrative of the many benefits our solutions can reap for our customers, which is extremely rewarding all around," noted Greg Harris, co-founder and chief executive officer at Quantum Workplace.

Join the Software République to shape tomorrow's mobility with the 'Mobility 4.0 Challenge'

2 September 2021

Since the announcement of the creation of the Software République in April 2021, the six members have aimed to develop tomorrow's mobility solutions and systems.

To stimulate innovation within an open ecosystem, Atos, Dassault Systèmes, Orange, Renault Group,

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STMicroelectronics, and Thales, are together organising a new competition called: ‘The Mobility 4.0 Challenge by the Software République’. This is the first time that six major European companies have joined forces to provide data, technical tools, Hardware and Software prototyping platforms, knowledge, and expertise, giving candidates the opportunity to create disruptive, value-creating use cases for mobility in Europe.

Candidates will work on one of the five themes below using data provided by the members of the Software République:

- Improvement of the user experience related to Electric Vehicles
- Multimodal accessibility
- Intelligent Transport
- Cybersecurity
- Open ideas

This is a unique opportunity for all participants to pitch their ideas to major mobility and digital players. The selected candidates will have access to the data necessary for their project and will be supported by experts from the six companies to help them formulate their value proposition and develop the prototype of their idea. Winners will be integrated into and incubated by the Software République, with privileged access to R&D facilities. In addition to potential industrial opportunities, the winners will benefit from media exposure at an internationally renowned technology exhibition and office space at one of Software République's partner sites.

The jury is composed of representatives of the six members of the Software République:

- Sophie Proust, EVP Group Chief Technology Officer, Atos Group
- Laurence Montanari, VP Transportation & Mobility Industry, Dassault Systèmes
- Frédéric Vacher, Head of Innovation 3DEXPERIENCE Lab, Dassault Systèmes
- Jean-Marc Lafond, IoT portfolio Director, Orange Innovation
- Luc Julia, Scientific Director, Renault Group
- Gilles Le Borgne, EVP Engineering, Renault Group
- Frédérique Le Grevès, Executive Vice President, France Public Affairs, STMicroelectronics & President and CEO, STMicroelectronics France
- Stéphane Royer, Group Chief Data Officer, Thales

Participants have six weeks to apply, from September 6 to October 13, 2021. Based on a pre-selection, the best applications will be accompanied in a prototyping phase from October 20 to November 20. Participants will then have two weeks of preparation, from November 20 to December 6, to present their project to the jury. The final and the announcement of the winners will take place in December.

Launched: Infosys Springboard to bring Digital Life Skills for Students in India

2 September 2021

Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, announced that it has launched Infosys Springboard to accelerate progress on its ESG goal to expand digital reskilling initiatives to 10 million plus people by 2025. As part of Infosys CSR, Infosys Springboard provides a curriculum-rich virtual platform that delivers corporate-grade learning experiences, on any device, with closer educator-learner collaboration for students from Class 6 to lifelong learners. This, alongside

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formal education, helps accelerate digital reskilling for participating learners, ranging from school and college students to professionals and adults.

Infosys Springboard's holistic set of courses, powered by Infosys Wingspan and developed in collaboration with world-leading digital educators like Coursera and Learnship, takes advantage of Infosys' 4 decades of rich experience in employee and broad-based student competency development. It is also fully aligned with India's National Education Policy 2020. The learning program is particularly well-suited to grow vocational skills in addition to soft skills. Masterclasses, programming challenges, practice areas and playgrounds for experimentation make the training immersive for all. The assessment formats that follow are new-age ready with certification for learners who pass the virtual proctored examination. Nearly 400,000 learners and 300+ education institutions, NGOs and support groups are already onboard Infosys Springboard.

Infosys Springboard empowers:

- Students to 'learn by doing' and develop holistically in preparation for emerging jobs and career opportunities
- Women with a focused learning portal, specialized resources and expert mentors for holistic development
- Working professionals with advanced digital skills to prepare them for high-paying jobs of the future
- Teachers to better collaborate with learners on their skilling journey using the platform's engagement features
- NGOs to extend learning benefits more broadly, especially to the underserved sections of society

"The pandemic has underscored the urgent need for accessible instruments of digital learning for people from all walks of life. Infosys, for decades, has already been working to strengthen digital capabilities within our own workforce, our clients, students and the communities we engage with. Infosys Springboard is a significant investment to help deliver on our ongoing ESG commitment to bridge the digital divide as we move into the future," said, **Nilanjan Roy, Chief Financial Officer at Infosys**.

Infosys Springboard will further amplify our ongoing programs like Infosys Campus Connect to deepen industry-academia relationships, Infosys Catch Them Young annual training program in Information Technology for high school students and Aspire and Achieve workshops for aspiring professionals. Infosys Springboard is now available on both Play Store and App Store.

Thirumala Arohi, Senior Vice President and Head - Education, Training and Assessment at Infosys, said, "Students and educators need digital curricula and platforms that are more than just hand-me-downs from corporates to truly serve their needs. Parents and guardians, on the other hand, need the assurance that the learning prepares their wards adequately for the future. NGOs and support groups need to extend the learning and make it more inclusive across the strata of our society. Infosys Springboard creates a framework that addresses all of their pressing concerns."

Variantum - Our Partner program is now released!

31 August 2021

We are extremely happy to release our new Partner program. To enable our future business growth, we have established a Partner program that will help us to expand our business outside of Finland, and at the same time give great business opportunities to our future Partners.

We are actively looking for new Partners in various markets, e.g., Poland, Baltic countries, and central

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Europe. We offer our Partners possibilities to achieve awesome results with the help of our unique software systems.

Our Partner program offers tools, resources, and expertise to help your future growth. There are three different options to become a Partner: you could be our Sales Representative, Authorized Partner or Premium Partner. Each of these options has defined requirements and benefits. We also offer our Partners a knowledge-sharing platform which will enable you to grow your business affairs successfully. Recently, we have already partnered with resellers in various countries to provide leading Offering Management software systems to initiate new business possibilities.

We offer process automation and digitalization enablement with low cost of ownership for any size customer company. Typically, our customers have versatile configurable products and services, and they need software that can streamline their data usage in-between different systems and processes. With our software our customers have been able to enhance their business processes significantly. Now our Partners can offer the same options for their clients!

Are you helping companies with their digitalization journey and looking for new business - maybe we are the perfect match?

Wipro and HERE partner to provide location-based services and analytics for customers globally

31 August 2021

Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, and HERE Technologies, the location data and technology platform, today announced that they are partnering to offer location-based services, to customers from Energy & Utilities, Manufacturing, Transport & Logistics, Telecom and Automotive industry verticals.

As part of this announcement, Wipro and HERE will be jointly developing solutions in the areas of asset tracking, logistics, supply chain, smart-metering and analytics, field workforce management, and private mapping-as-a-service for indoor and outdoor real-time asset tracking.

An Internet of Things (IoT) based smart metering solution being developed by both companies, will provide better information to customers on energy consumption and asset management. The HERE mapping-as-a-service solution enables enterprises to build private maps in the field and manage their autonomous vehicles more efficiently, by providing information to their drivers on routing time, speed, fuel consumption and hazardous conditions. HERE Tracking will help Wipro's customers monitor and track assets, field engineers and supply chain on a real-time basis both indoor and outdoor, as well as provide analytics to build operational efficiencies.

Sarat Chand, Regional Head & Managing Director - Benelux, Wipro Limited said, "We are happy to be partnering with HERE Technologies to co-develop customized solutions, for customers who require location as a key component of their services. We are excited about the future of this partnership and the potential it offers in the journey towards an autonomous world."

Jason Jameson, SVP & General Manager, APAC, HERE Technologies said, "We are delighted to be partnering with Wipro to provide location-based services for their customers on a global level. Combined with Wipro's solutions, HERE location technology will open up further opportunities across different industries, providing customers with more relevant and customized solutions, leading to world-class user experiences."

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Wipro appoints Mohammed Areff as Country Head & Managing Director, Middle East

1 September 2021

Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, announced the appointment of Mohammed Areff as the Country Head & Managing Director for the Middle East.

Areff will focus on Wipro's vision for business growth, localization, brand building and significant transformational and modernization engagements with clients in key sectors across the region.

Areff is a veteran bringing in over two decades of experience with various multinationals in the Middle East and has held lead roles in spearheading client transformations across various industries.

In his most recent role, Areff was the Regional Director of Microsoft Gulf where he was responsible for driving successful customer outcomes by leveraging technology deployments and implementations across multi-cloud environments, leveraging Data and AI, CRM, ERP, Enterprise Security, and incorporating the use of Microsoft's Productivity and Collaboration tools. He also led teams across various industry verticals providing the sales and technical specialization on new business and premium cloud solutions. Prior to that, Areff developed extensive expertise in the Middle East Managed Services space through leadership roles at NCR Corporation and Avaya.

Areff will report to N.S. Bala, CEO – APMEA, Wipro Limited.

“The Middle East has been a strategic focus for Wipro for over two decades, and even more so now with its growing demand for comprehensive digital transformation solutions, agility and scale, specialized technology requirements and innovation. I am excited to welcome Areff and am confident that his leadership and deep understanding of this market will lead to greater customer success and enhanced business opportunities that support our growth ambitions in this region,” said **N.S. Bala, CEO – APMEA, Wipro Limited.**

“I am thrilled to be a part of Wipro and truly admire its culture, spirit of excellence and corporate values. I look forward to help strengthen our client and ecosystem relationships in the Middle East, amplify investments in local capabilities, and continue to drive positive brand perception to enable large scale and sustainable growth for Wipro,” said **Mohammed Areff.**

2021 marks two decades of Wipro's presence in the Middle East. Over these years, Wipro has partnered with several leading Public and Private sector enterprises in their business transformation and digital journeys. Recognizing the region's enormous growth potential, Wipro has made numerous strategic investments in technology and domain expertise, strengthening its local presence with a diverse and tech savvy local workforce, establishing strategic partnerships and setting up offices in key economic hubs.

Event News

Architects and AEC professionals to hear from world's leading experts on sustainability, integrated design, building lifecycle intelligence, and the future of architectural education at Graphisoft's Building Together 2021 Digital Event

31 August 2021

Graphisoft, the leading Building Information Modeling (BIM) software solution developer for architecture, announced the full speaker list and agenda for the Building Together 2021 conference. Scheduled for September 14-16, and offered at no charge, the carefully curated online

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program will cover a range of topics of interest to today's AEC professionals and share case studies on how the latest solutions from Graphisoft can help architects and engineers identify and leverage industry trends for business success.

Graphisoft's core belief in developing tools to empower teams to create great architecture through design, digitalization, and discovery has prompted the company to bring the world's AEC experts and thought leaders together to share disruptive innovations, ideas, and examples of great architecture — all within the framework of an inspiring and interactive three-day online conference.

“We've invited great minds and thought leaders to delve into important topics such as diversity in architecture, rapid rehousing, the future of cities, the changing role of architects, and the challenges of cultural heritage preservation,” said Huw Roberts, Graphisoft CEO. “We're also making it easy to connect with other AEC professionals around the world thanks to an innovative networking platform that will connect participants to the discussions and each other,” he added.

Global thought leaders will delve into the critical trends shaping the AEC industry:

Thirty-nine leading architects and experts from around the world will participate — from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the United States — in the form of **roundtables, keynotes**, and short **TREND Talks**, including:

Prof. Dr. Michael Braungart is a professor at the Leuphana University Lüneburg and founder of **EPEA, Environmental Protection and Encouragement Agency** in Hamburg (Germany), ‘The cradle of Cradle to Cradle.’ He is also co-founder of McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC) in Charlottesville, Virginia, and founder of the Hamburger Environmental Institute (HUI). For decades, Prof. Dr. Michael Braungart has pioneered the **Cradle-to-Cradle design concept**. He has worked with several organizations and companies across a range of industries and has developed tools for designing eco-effective products, business systems, and intelligent materials pooling. In 2019 Michael Braungart was awarded the Goldene Blume von Rheydt (Golden Flower of Rheydt), the oldest environmental protection award in Germany, for his work.

Philip Allsopp, Senior Sustainability Scientist at **Arizona State University**, will speak about the increasing need to rethink human habitats as ecological and technological systems providing energy, food, and water security, rather than mere real estate commodities.

Tiffany Brown, Executive Director of the **National Organization of Minority Architects**, founded **400 Forward**, an initiative that aims to seek out and support the next 400 minority women architects in the US, to address environmental injustices and social issues of the built environment. She will speak about how representation makes a significant social impact on firm practice, culture, education, and design thinking.

Masaaki Matsuoka, Designer/Architect at Osaka's **Takenaka Corp.**, will speak about tradition meeting innovation by embracing innovative computation methods throughout the design and construction process.

Chris Ambridge, Associate Principal, **cox graae + spack**; and **Gabe Oliver**, Vice President, **GCS-SIGAL**, will speak about the Archicad 25 signature building in a presentation entitled ‘Limitless lessons from the **Duke Ellington School of the Arts** — a story of collaboration.’ Learn how a single model workflow was taken to its ultimate level to create an iconic theater space and upgrade a landmark building to add significant academic areas as well.

Oystein Elgsaas, Architect/Partner, **Voll Arkitekter**, will speak about **Mjøstårnet, the world's tallest**

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timber building, located in Norway. An award-winning project designed using Archicad, Mjøstårnet represents a shift in sustainable green architecture.

Roundtable: Educating Architects for BIM + Graphisoft Global Recruitment Survey — Hiring the Next Generation of Architects

An expert panel of **educators from leading architecture schools** will discuss how we can best prepare students of architecture for technology-enabled workflows, integrated design, and the changing role of the architect.

What does the ideal, recently graduated job candidate look like? Are students well prepared for BIM workflows and integrated design? To help firms find great talent and for students, recent graduates, and young professionals to find their ideal place to work, Graphisoft has launched a global survey, the results of which will be shared at the Building Together event.

Building Together Design Challenge – September 6-24

To encourage people around the world who have registered for the event to work on an easy design task together using Archicad (no prior software knowledge is needed), Graphisoft will launch the Building Together Design Challenge on September 6, focused on each participant’s personal vision of what the words ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ mean.

The individual models will be imported into a single BIMx file. The challenge lasts through September 24, when Graphisoft will reveal a giant architectural puzzle made up of the submitted designs.

Participants are invited to encourage their friends and colleagues to vote for their design — and to submit their own. The 50 designs with the most votes will win valuable prizes. For more information and to enter the challenge starting September 6, click the **Design Challenge** tab at buildingtogether.graphisoft.com.

Graphisoft will offer **online networking** for event participants. After signing in, users are invited to create a profile on the event platform and connect with others using the chat function.

Autodesk to Present at Upcoming Investor Conferences

1 September 2021

Autodesk, Inc. announced its executives will be speaking at the following investor conferences:

- September 9, 2021 Deutsche Bank’s Virtual Technology Conference
- September 14, 2021 Citi’s 2021 Global Technology Virtual Conference
- September 21, 2021 J.P. Morgan 12th Annual U.S. All Stars Conference

A live webcast and replay of the presentations will be available through Autodesk’s Investor Relations Website. Please go to the Website 15 minutes early to register, download and install any necessary software. For more information, please call Autodesk Investor Relations at 415-507-6373.

DXC Technology to Participate in Deutsche Bank’s 2021 Technology Conference

3 September 2021

DXC Technology, a leading Fortune 500 global technology services company, will participate in Deutsche Bank’s annual Technology Virtual Conference on September 9, 2021. President and CEO Mike Salvino is scheduled to participate in a fireside chat at 9:10 a.m. EDT.

The presentation will be available on the “Events and Presentations” section of DXC’s investor webpage.

Valeo, NTT DATA and Embotech present a showcase for automated valet parking at the IAA

24 August 2021

Valeo, NTT DATA and Embotech are presenting their joint solution for Automated Valet Parking (AVP) at this year's IAA (International Motor Show) as part of a showcase under the umbrella of the VDA (Association of the Automotive Industry). Vehicles at the car park entrance are taken over by a central control system and parked automatically. NTT DATA announced this today.

The showcase runs on the occasion of the IAA MOBILITY 2021 from September 7th to 12th, 2021 in Munich. The organizer is a consortium of five vehicle manufacturers and four AVP technology providers from the supplier industry and the startup community. The aim is to illustrate the interoperability of the vehicle models and the AVP technologies.

To demonstrate the solution from Valeo, NTT DATA and Embotech, 22 cameras were installed in the car park and networked with one another. Valeo provides the camera sensors and the software for recording the vehicles. NTT DATA ensures communication between the individual components, i.e. from sensors to AVP system and from AVP system to vehicles. For the communication from the AVP system to the vehicles, NTT DATA relies on 5G mobile radio technology and also takes on the integration of the overall system into the existing IT system of the car park. Embotech supplies the algorithms with which the system calculates and controls the movements of the vehicles in real time. The AVP system maneuvers the vehicles intelligently, safely and efficiently. Interoperability plays a decisive role in the widespread introduction of AVP. It is achieved by standardizing the interfaces and protocols and makes it possible to make valet parking available for the largest possible number of models from different automobile manufacturers and their users. And this regardless of which AVP solution the operators of the parking areas use.

The possibility of simply dropping off the car at the multi-storey car park is transformed from an expensive premium service to a natural offer at airports, trade fair or shopping centers or cultural and sports venues. Further application scenarios are available in the plants of the vehicle manufacturers, at the vehicle transshipment points in ports, vehicle logistics centers and other parking garage operators, both in the public and in the private sector.

Automated valet parking eliminates the need for a long search for a free space, as well as searching for the vehicle later. Because it is available at the vehicle issue at the requested time, as ordered. And in the meantime, the car park operator can use his valuable space much more efficiently: Since nobody gets in or out of the parking areas, the vehicles can be parked much closer together. The operation of high-maintenance passenger elevators can be reduced to a minimum for the service staff.

An important advantage of the AVP solution from Valeo, NTT DATA and Embotech over other developments is the cost-effective and proven sensor technology from Valeo. These include, for example, fisheye cameras, which are already used in many cars today and are produced in very large numbers. This means that the solution pays for itself faster.

The use of 5G as a communication medium made possible by NTT DATA also has the potential to achieve short latency times of less than 10 ms. As a result, the cars can be moved faster and yet more safely than with a WiFi solution. In addition, the availability of 5G networking is significantly higher at over 99 percent. The AVP solution shown at the IAA runs over the virtualized NTT DATA 5G network and offers the advantage that the solution can be integrated into an existing data center and a cost saving

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potential of around 40 percent is possible. The next expansion step is the wireless connection of the camera sensors via 5G.

Another important advantage is the efficient and safe control of the vehicles using the powerful software from Embotech. The special optimization and model-based algorithms enable the control unit of the AVP to make a large number of decisions in real time - without prior training or precalculations.

“Automated valet parking will have a lasting impact on mobility. Parking of any kind can be time, energy and cost efficient. This not only has advantages for private drivers, but also for operators of parking lots. Our 5G-based and fully integrable solution shows the strengths of NTT DATA as an application-oriented system integrator for the automotive industry, with a strong connection to the telecommunications background of our parent company,” says Ralf Malter, COO and Managing Director at NTT DATA DACH.

"Valeo, world market leader in ADAS, inventor and world market leader for automatic parking systems with more than 33 million systems sold to date, would like to contribute its know-how to this experiment, which will further advance the development of automatic parking systems", says Marc Vrecko, Director of the Valeo Business Group Comfort and Driving Assistance.

"The Valeo-NTT DATA-Embotech consortium combines first-class solutions for camera sensors and perception software (Valeo), communication based on 5G (NTT DATA) and driving software (Embotech) in order to offer the mobility market a convincing solution for automated valet parking. We are pleased us very much about the potential of this collaboration," says Andreas Kyrtatos, CEO of Embotech.

Implementation Investments

Altair and Stanley Robotics to Present New Robotics Solution at Global Industrie

1 September 2021

Altair, the global leader converging simulation, HPC, and AI, and Stanley Robotics, are proud to present their collaboration on Stan, the world's first robotized vehicle storage service, at Global Industrie, September 6-9 in Lyon.

As the global revolution of the outdoor autonomous mobile robot is underway, Stanley Robotics selected Altair as its strategic software solutions provider to increase the reliability and durability of its robots, making storage more profitable while increasing the security of the parking sites using the parking robots. This collaboration is mutually beneficial as Stanley Robotics receives benefits from Altair's startup support program and Altair leverages the feedback from Stanley Robotics on its use cases with very short design and validation cycles.

Altair will help Stanley Robotics improve future iterations of Stan by reducing the number of prototypes, tests, and ultimately, costs. Thanks to the high-performance calculations generated by Altair, Stanley Robotics continues to evolve the design of its robots by pushing their robustness even further while optimizing production costs. Already present in the parking lots of Lyon Saint Exupéry airport, Stan is now conquering the automotive logistics market.

According to Mathieu Lips, vice president of engineering at Stanley Robotics, “Logistics is following the automation revolution across all workflows. As a pioneer in automated automotive logistics, it is essential for Stanley Robotics to have the most powerful and versatile tools on the market to ensure a robust design that is right the first time. This is precisely what led us to choose Altair, a company that is

very attentive to customers of our size and offers powerful and innovative software solutions that bring together simulation and high-performance computing.”

“Startups are the great companies of tomorrow; they are the engine of innovation in France and the flagship of our ability to innovate internationally,” said François Weiler, France country manager, Altair. “Stanley Robotics clearly fits into this category. Today a startup, tomorrow perhaps the industry standard in autonomous logistics. Altair is proud to have contributed to this project and help propel Stan’s international expansion.”

Developments in the project led by Altair and Stanley Robotics will be discussed at Global Industrie in Lyon, France, September 6-9, 2021, booth 1A4 under the patronage of French President Emmanuel Macron.

BankDhofar Achieves Digital Transformation Success with Infosys Finacle

1 September 2021

Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys and BankDhofar, one of the leading banks in Oman, announced the bank’s successful completion of a comprehensive, three phase modernization program leveraging the Finacle Digital Banking Suite. The program was completed ahead of schedule and covered digital transformation of the Bank’s core banking platform, digital channels and branches, in line with the Bank’s vision of becoming a digital-first entity, and ‘The best bank in the Gulf for customer experience’.

Transformation Highlights –

- Phase 1 – With the dual objective of simplifying banking and enhancing customer experience, BankDhofar modernized its branches in consultation with Infosys’ customer-centric digital transformation studio.
- Since then, the Bank’s digital age branches have seen vastly improved staff performances, higher customer satisfaction among both business and corporate customers, and a good improvement in sales to service ratio.
- Phase 2 – This phase saw a digital channels modernization program involving an upgrade of the existing Finacle Online Banking application for both retail and corporate banking.
- The bank also implemented the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub as a platform for delivering integrated, contextual and tailored digital banking services across channels, and redesigned customer-facing processes to facilitate the shift to digital.
- Phase 3 – This phase saw a revamping of the entire back-end technology infrastructure with the upgrade of Finacle Treasury, Finacle Payments, and Finacle Core Banking platforms to the latest Finacle 11 enterprise version.
- Additionally, BankDhofar implemented the preferential pricing, VAT and country limit capabilities, alongside training 800+ staff on the new platform.
- BankDhofar is now better empowered to rapidly co-innovate with the external digital ecosystem and go to market at speed with fast, scalable, and comprehensive suite of web services and over 1100 RESTful APIs.

Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, Chief Executive Officer, BankDhofar, said, “We are glad that BankDhofar Vision 2020 is today a reality with a new digital-first banking platform, powered by Infosys Finacle. We are glad that our transformation program covering technology upgrade, channels upliftment, process improvement, data restructuring, branch modernization, and culture transformation are well

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underway, allowing no room for disruption to the end customer. Post go-live, we believe BankDhofar ranks the highest in terms of technology leadership, and functional coverage. We are now well positioned to offer our customers a world-class banking facility with the new platform, either at the branch or through digital channels, as we strive to strengthen our leadership position in the Sultanate.”

Sajit Vijayakumar, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Infosys Finacle: “We are proud to partner BankDhofar to help realize its ambitious Vision 2020. This program builds on the foundations of strong partnership for over ten years. The success of this comprehensive modernization underlines our position as a provider of industry-leading digital banking suite and a dependable digital transformation partner for financial institutions. The modern technology foundation will help BankDhofar further cement its market leadership and help drive innovation led growth.”

City of Plano Partners with Aurigo Masterworks to Digitize Capital Program Management

31 August 2021

Aurigo Software, the leading provider of capital planning and construction management software for infrastructure and private owners, announced it had entered into a multiyear contract with the City of Plano to help automate the agency’s capital program.

In October of 2020, the City of Plano announced their Community Investment Program (CIP), a five-year guide to planning, building, and operating capital projects that supports the City’s strategic objectives. Located 20 miles north of Dallas, Plano is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 285,190 as of January 2020. The City offers nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and a wide variety of multicultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles, and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations, including Rent-A-Center, Intuit, and Bank of America.

“Plano is one of the fastest growing cities in Texas and we are excited to partner with the city to support their commitment to residents in improving their streets, utilities, parks and facilities,” said Balaji Sreenivasan, CEO and founder of Aurigo Software. “Plano joins other leaders in our great nation who have chosen to build smarter by adopting modern capital planning project delivery software,” he said.

Aurigo Masterworks Cloud is set to transform the way CIP projects are managed from the initial planning stage until the closure of the project. Masterworks will automate various business processes that include capital planning and fund management, utilities coordination, project management, contract management, and bid management. The platform will provide access for 75 City employees as well as 400 external consultants, contractors, and vendors across multiple City departments, including engineering, public works, parks and recreation, and facilities. In addition, Masterworks will integrate with several other critical applications used by the City such as JD Edwards, ArcGIS, and Cartegraph.

The City made their selection via a formal Request for Proposal process that evaluated and determined Aurigo Software to be the best fit for their long-term needs. Plano is added to Aurigo’s growing list of major U.S. cities to adopt the platform, including Denver, Houston, Seattle, and Las Vegas.

Flotronics Automation launches interactive 3D CAD product configurator powered by CADENAS for Modular Solutions division

31 August 2021

Industrial guarding manufacturer reduces cost by 10 percent while cutting down lead time by two

weeks

Flotronics Automation's guarding solutions brand, known as Modular Solutions, has launched an all-new 3D CAD product configurator. Built by CADENAS, the tool enables engineers to find, configure and download 3D CAD & BIM data for the MOD-Guard series of products. By delivering on-demand access to product data, Flotronics Automation provides an industry-leading digital experience while reducing customer project costs by 10 percent and lead times by two weeks.

Modular Solutions' aluminum profiles enable engineers to easily construct products for a variety of applications, including conveyors, enclosures, workstations, and more. These highly customizable products are built from Modular Solutions' T-Slot profiles, which are extruded in the United States and assembled at Flotronics Automation's Auburn Hills facility. MOD-Guard products can be configured as an individual section or by the entire project. Sections can be cut to size and shape, and customers can purchase them as a kit or finished product.

Customers take the wheel during configuration

"In the past customers sent us specs for the Robotic or Machine Guarding they wanted, and we would spend 8-10 hours developing a design for them," said Steve Schmaltz, Owner of Flotronics Automation. "Then we would go back and forth until the design met the customer's needs. This took time for both parties. Our new product configurator has streamlined the process and put the customer in the driver seat."

The new tool has enabled MOD-Guard to reduce their lead time by two weeks and reduce customer costs by 10 percent. Schmaltz added, "The main reason we chose to implement this solution was to save our customers time and money. By reducing the burden on our internal resources, we accelerate our delivery time and pass these savings along to customers."

Four Hands builds foundation for growth with Centric PLM

30 August 2021

Centric Software® is delighted to announce the release of a success story about its customer, Four Hands.

Four Hands was established in 1996 and is headquartered in Austin, Texas. The company designs and manufactures home furnishings for every room in the house and for the garden. With offices in China, Vietnam, India and Indonesia, they have over 500 employees, 10,000+ active customers, 100+ active suppliers and 5,000+ active SKUs. Their furniture can be found in major furnishings retailers, small boutiques and through their and others' e-commerce sites.

Four Hands needed to organize their data across all their functions which was housed in various, disparate places. Douglas Estremadoyro, VP of Business Innovation at Four Hands says, "Behind the scenes we are a sourcing company, we are a warehousing company, a sales company and a distribution company. Across all those items of the value chain is the management of information from design all the way to the customer."

GAP Group Is Well Equipped with Infor

1 September 2021

Infor, the industry cloud company, announced that GAP Group, the leading independent equipment hire company in the UK, is deploying Infor CloudSuite Equipment, a multi-tenant cloud ERP system specifically designed for equipment manufacturers, dealers and rental companies. Delivered via multi-

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tenant cloud on Amazon Web Services (AWS), the solution will help increase operational efficiency across the group, streamlining the sales order process while providing access to the latest software updates.

With 146 depots throughout the UK operating across 10 divisions, GAP supplies more than 6,000 product lines to the utilities, construction and infrastructure sectors. The group is currently using Infor M3 on-premises to manage the service and rental of its entire product range and uphold compliance with vital health and safety regulations. Its upgrade to Infor CloudSuite Equipment will help deliver additional system security, scalability, functionality and reliability.

“We are a dynamic and growing business, and Infor CloudSuite Equipment represents a proven, scalable, agile system that can meet our requirements now and in the future,” comments Chris Parr, GAP Group chief operating officer. “Infor CloudSuite Equipment will underpin our commitment to delivering exceptional, bespoke service to our customers, with over 1,200 of our 1,860 employees across the UK using the solution daily. We will be able to remain focused on our core business safe in the knowledge that we’re working with the most up-to-date system features and functionality, which are tailored to suit the unique requirements of our industry, further enhancing and optimising our complex, multi-faceted operation.”

“More businesses are recognising the benefits of moving to the cloud for enhanced scalability and business agility,” comments Anwen Robinson, Infor GM and SVP for UK & Ireland. “Infor CloudSuite Equipment provides the industry-specific functionality that equipment rental companies need alongside the flexibility to support ongoing business development. GAP Group’s investment in Infor CloudSuite Equipment is a great example of this, helping the business maintain its focus on customer service excellence and strategic growth without having to worry that its systems are holding it back.”

Kubota Forms Strategic Partnership with Accenture to Accelerate Digital Transformation

31 August 2021

Kubota Corporation has formed a strategic partnership with Accenture to accelerate its ongoing digital transformation by evolving its business model to further contribute to solutions for food, water, and environmental sustainability.

Kubota has set forth a long-term vision called Global Major Brand 2030 (GMB2030), which defines the role that Kubota should play and the guidelines it should follow to help solve societal and environmental challenges. Kubota and Accenture will design and implement solutions to enhance the productivity and safety of food, promote circularity of water resources and waste, as well as the improvement of urban and living environments, as prioritized in the GMB2030 vision.

The partnership will create a platform to drive value for Kubota both locally and globally by incorporating services that combine Accenture’s leading-edge digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and the internet of things, with Kubota’s sustainable businesses.

Both companies will focus on promoting the three initiatives below.

- **Co-creation of innovative sustainability solutions applying digital transformation:** Since its founding in 1890, Kubota has been helping solve social issues. By combining Accenture’s digital transformation expertise and experience with Kubota’s business and industry domains, the companies will be able to create new solutions and innovations related to food, water, and environmental sustainability.

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- **Implementation of group-wide digital transformation, along with related infrastructure and human resources development:** The Kubota Group, which does business in more than 120 countries, is planning to broadly implement digital transformation measures. This strategic partnership will include the creation of a service platform that supports the rapid implementation of these measures and allows the centralized management and use of diverse data held across the group. Additionally, using Accenture’s talent development capabilities and programs, Kubota will enhance the digital skillsets of its employees to drive future digital transformations.
- **Creation of a secure and flexible system to support Kubota’s business globally:** Accenture will review more than 200 of Kubota’s legacy information technology systems, and help modernize, replace or migrate select applications to Microsoft Azure cloud. In addition, Accenture will further strengthen Kubota’s global computer security incident response team to help them respond quickly to security risks. The resulting system environment will support business growth with an effective balance of proactive and defensive capabilities.

Yuichi Kitao, president and representative director of Kubota Corporation, said, “Since its founding, Kubota’s mission has been to contribute to society in the fields of food, water, and the environment, which are indispensable for the survival of human beings, and to support the future of the earth and its people. Based on this mission, we will continue to protect the environment of this beautiful earth as we support greater abundance in people’s lives as an ‘Essentials Innovator for Supporting Life,’ committed to a prosperous society and cycle of nature. This digital transformation is one of the essential business foundations to achieve this goal, and we see this partnership with Accenture as a major step in this direction.”

Atsushi Egawa, market unit lead in Japan for Accenture, said, “We believe that to realize a better future for all, we must embrace change and work in new ways to address the unprecedented challenges the world is facing by seeking value for all stakeholders. By leveraging data analytics, the cloud, artificial intelligence, and industry knowledge, we can create a tailor-made platform that will help Kubota achieve its sustainability goals — something that will have a meaningful impact on all of us together.”

MAWSS Moves its Operations to the Cloud to Drive Sustainable Growth

30 August 2021

Infor announced that Mobile Area Water and Sewer (MAWSS) has chosen to upgrade from Lawson S3 to Infor Financials & Supply Management. MAWSS, the preferred provider of water and sanitary sewer service for the greater Mobile area in Alabama, has been an Infor customer since 1999, and has trusted Infor to help it digitally transform in the cloud with an updated, modern, strong ERP foundation. MAWSS will apply automated workflows and role-based security to tighten access to sensitive public data and harness the power and responsiveness of the Infor cloud to remain ahead of its competition.

Dedra Cassidey, comptroller at MAWSS, said, “The Infor team has guided us through this transition, leaving nothing unchecked. They have helped us account for every detail of the upgrade, making sure everything has been tested and validated. We will go live knowing that our data is secure and accurate, with greater ease of access, leading to increased efficiency. The new reporting platform with customizable dashboards will allow our users to focus on specific KPIs, contributing to the success of our overall strategic plan.”

By upgrading to the cloud, MAWSS will benefit from a new modern user experience as new entrants to the workforce demand easy-to-use business applications. In addition, regular automatic updates each month will help the organization save valuable time, expense, and energy. The move to the multi-tenant

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cloud will also allow the IT department at MAWSS to focus on value-added tasks rather than tracking when ERP updates are needed and performing the work manually. Infor Financials & Supply Management can be accessed anytime, anywhere in the cloud or with the Infor Go® mobile app, thereby providing greater mobility to MAWSS field teams.

“Outdated system architecture stifles growth,” said Steve Potvin, Infor vice president. “Infor understands that modern organizations can no longer be tethered to their desktops to access data, handle manual updates or siloed collaboration. It’s more important than ever for organizations to move from on-premises applications, which hold a company back from their full potential, to software that is agile and can grow alongside them.”

OPENPDM SUPPORTS PLM INTEGRATION AT AUSTAL SHIPYARD

31 August 2021

AUSTAL, one of the world's leading shipyards for high-speed vessels, is currently modernizing its IT landscape. After the Australian shipbuilder defined its PLM strategy and roadmap together with PROSTEP, the two partners launched a project to develop AUSTAL's digital enterprise platform based on PROSTEP's Integration platform OpenPDM in June 2021. The objective of the project is to achieve a seamless flow of information between the enterprise data management systems such as PDM/PLM, ERP, data warehouse (DWH) and PPS.

As part of its digital transformation, AUSTAL had already implemented a new ERP system and started improving its existing PDM functions. Therefore, the development of a traceable and robust connection between the different systems was merely the logical next step in the context of the digitalization activities. The Australian shipbuilding experts were looking for a suitable solution that would enable end-to-end data storage across company boundaries, IT systems and domains, and which would provide appropriate support for secure and status-based data transfer.

The OpenPDM integration platform with its marine and offshore-specific extension, OpenPDM SHIP, addresses these requirements and also offers integrated PLM semantics that have been optimized for shipyard processes. It is crucial that AUSTAL has a scalable and robust integration solution that can be operated and maintained by its own IT department. This is why the company decided to use OpenPDM as the basis for developing its digital enterprise platform. The first step involved implementing use cases that address the exchange of data between product development and resource planning. This has the advantage for AUSTAL that the new capabilities can be used productively right away and that the company's IT experts can be trained for subsequent operation of the integration platform at an early stage.

PROSTEP will move implementation forward in close cooperation with AUSTAL throughout the entire project with the aim of specifying additional development steps in accordance with the shipyard's needs. Following successful integration of the PDM and ERP systems, implementing the transfer of drawings and BOMs as well as operation cutting work orders is being discussed. Thought is also being given to integrating other systems – from business planning to payroll accounting – in the corporate platform.

Andrew Malcolm, chief digital officer (CDO) at AUSTAL, has the following to say: "With OpenPDM, we have found an integration solution that meets our needs as they stand today and will allow us to gradually scale up or down as appropriate and adapt to future requirements. This means that we are equipped to deal for the challenges that lie ahead and are laying the foundation for successful digital transformation at AUSTAL.”

Product News

ActCAD 2022 Products Released, Dt.25-Aug-2021

25 August 2021

ActCAD announces the release of ActCAD 2022 products mentioned below based on latest IntelliCAD 10.1 Engine:

- ActCAD 2022 BIM
- ActCAD 2022 Professional
- ActCAD 2022 Standard

This is the fastest version of ActCAD released so far. Below is the list of major improvements in this release:

- ActCAD 2022 is upto 7 times faster while selecting entities, 2 times faster while handlign grips, snaps and regeneration.
- ActCAD 2022 supports 3Dconnexion input devices
- Improved API Functions
- Completely refactored OpenGL graphics engine
- All new geolocation feature
- Restore default program settings from Start menu
- Improved Table Styles and Table Editing
- Create and Edit Sheet Sets
- Insert Dynamic Blocks
- Import .pdf files with more advanced options
- Import of map files (.shp, .sdf, .sqlite files)
- Dynamic view transitions
- Dimbreak command
- Advanced grips for blocks and groups
- Layer Previous command
- Ability to turn off entity movement when clicking and dragging the mouse
- Ability to restore a layer state to the current viewport, all viewports, all layouts and viewports, or the Model tab
- Introduced Associative Arrays with Edit Array command
- ActCAD BIM now import Autodesk® Revit® 2021 files, specify AEC drawing units, convert an existing entity to a beam path, and determine the smoothness (level of detail) of curves in BIM underlays created from .rvt files
- Several improvements in editing and selecting entities, layers, text, the user interface etc.

Automation, material savings, KPI reporting and integration in Lantek Global Release 2021

2 September 2021

Lantek, leading multinational in the development and commercialization of CAD-CAM/MES/ERP solutions and pioneer in the digital transformation of companies in the sheet metal industry, reveals the new features and improvements in the latest version of its software - Lantek Global Release 2021.

With its **Global Release 2021**, Lantek continues with its commitment to offer its clients and distributors the most advanced and flexible solutions for the sheet metal market, increasing their efficiency and profitability, and helping them on the path to digital transformation.

The 2021 version is the culmination of 35 years of experience: Lantek 35th Anniversary Version. "35 years in software is a long time; many years learning from customers' processes, from their specific cases, from their workflows and from different machines and technologies. The 2021 version is the materialization of 35 years of experience, and we are proud to release it.", says Carlos García, CTO of Lantek.

Lantek Expert

New features in the import of CAD models into Lantek Expert allow **Drag and Drop and the detection of duplicate parts**, making the import of part data much simpler and quicker. The software is capable of **importing 3D models** as assemblies and sets of parts from virtually every CAD system in the market. Now, with the **Assembly to Nesting importer**, it can unfold all the sheet metal parts in the model, taking account of the bending tool to be used, to arrive at an accurate 2D shape ready for nesting and cutting. Furthermore, new capabilities for managing **Draft Parts** make it possible to flag up parts which need further design approval before manufacture. Additionally, Lantek's new **Clean Cut** technology can be applied to those contours where no lead-ins or micro-joints should be placed, avoiding potential imperfections in the final cut.

A new **Expand Nest option** makes it easy for the programmer to make use of unused space on the sheet by uniformly increasing the space between parts. The advantages are increased rigidity of the remaining skeleton after cutting; improved evacuation of parts during cutting and reduced chance of collisions; a reduction in heat affected zones, and a balanced weight for the skeleton when crane removal is necessary.

The new **Spiral Cutting function** for hole cutting destroys the material within the hole so that it falls into the machine bed. This prevents potential collisions and avoids the need for manual removal of the scrap material. It also gives a smoother and faster cut with no sharp corners and involves fewer cut start cycles.

Other improvements aimed at manufacturability include - better lead in/out positions, automatic remnant dimensioning, new micro-joint treatments, skeleton destruction options, import window customisation and improvements in cost calculations – 25 in all.

Lantek Flex3D

The tube machining market is growing strongly as is the number of new machines, devices and technologies designed to cut tubular parts. Lantek's Global Release 2021 reflects these demands from the industry.

The new **Toolpath Smart Designer** introduces the ability to handle **the importation and machining of any shape of profile, even irregular ones**, making it ready for cutting any complex tube format. This

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capability can also be used also for the existing regular profiles, giving more flexibility to the user for efficient part cutting.

Lantek's Steelwork parts design module has been completely redesigned to create a common and seamless user interface experience for all the machine technologies, along with a **new 64-bit architecture, which has resulted in a reduction in programming time of around 15%**.

Additionally, the **automatic nesting engine has been improved, boosting material savings up to 5% and time savings of 28%**, along with other manual capabilities for precise adjustments, different options for remnants evacuation, splitting of parts to reduce remnants generation and beam loading angle selection.

Other improvements have been included to meet the market demands of new machining strategies and devices. These include the **fast-cutting strategy for holes zones using a zig-zag machining path** and **improved lead-ins positioning**, the support of machines with double X-axis heads or three movable supports, and other general features like **acceleration handling for machining time calculation** and the ability to **Drag and Drop** files during the importation process.

Lantek MES and Lantek Integra

Managing the workshop and accurately keeping track of resource loading, orders, delivery dates, quality and stock levels while maintaining traceability and the flexibility to react to changing circumstances are just some of the capabilities of **Lantek MES** and **Lantek Integra**.

Supporting this improved flexibility is better real-time integration with the machine control with **Lantek WOS Opentalk**. This gives more power and reliability, automatically reporting the job actually running on the machine. **Workload Monitoring** improvements help in scheduling and load monitoring, enabling accurate delivery times to be predicted for quotations and sale orders while considering the current workload, estimated running times, and pre-defined buffer and lag times for each operation.

Better integration of Lantek MES and Lantek Integra with Lantek Flex3D allows more options for the import of 3D CAD data (STEP, IGES, SAT). These changes further improve the ability of the system to create quotations.

To meet current user experience standards, Lantek has made **significant improvements to its look & feel**. The new **dark mode** theme enhances the visual ergonomics, reducing eye strain and making it possible to adjust the screen to suit the current light conditions, providing comfort for the user at night or in dark environments.

Lantek Analytics

Lantek has been working on cloud-based applications for several years and sees this as the future for software. Lantek made a giant effort to develop SaaS cloud applications. Not only does it make the **software accessible from any location 24/7**, but it eliminates the cost of expensive hardware, is elastic in its capacity and makes updates and new software applications easy to implement, dramatically reducing the cost of ownership.

The Global Release 2021 sees the launch of the first **SaaS (Software as a Service)** application in Lantek Analytics. **This business Intelligence application collects relevant data every day. It can be accessed on any device from any location at any time and makes it possible to see what is happening in the factory with more than 70 KPIs and 10 filters**. It has never been so easy to transparently see your business data, all packed in meaningful KPIs.

As part of the development, **Lantek Analytics includes 8 new additional KPIs, the dark mode, an improvement in dashboard and filter management and Self-Service features**.

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8 new KPIs Machine Pause Reasons, OTIF (On Time In Full Delivery), WIP (Work In Process), Lead Time, Lead Time Evolution, Transport Cost, Transport Cost Deviation, Return Orders, will all open new valuable insights into the business.

An improvement in the **Dashboard Management** allows users to create and duplicate dashboards and dashboards-groups, and mark dashboards as favourites. The improvement in the **Filter Management** allows the user to create, edit and delete filter combinations and save them with a name so they can be quickly applied later with one click.

The **Self-Service** feature allows easily to create new KPIs. This is done using an easy-to-follow step by step wizard, where the user is guided in the process and can select from more than 150 predefined measures and more than 50 filters.

Following the look and feel of other Lantek products, Analytics also has a **Dark-Mode skin option**, which greatly reduces eye strain making colour more vibrant.

AVEVA Launches Comprehensive Operations Control Software through Game-Changing User-Centric Flexible Model

31 August 2021

AVEVA, a global leader in industrial software, driving digital transformation and sustainability, announced that it will be making its Operations Control solutions available as a single subscription for the first time. This redefines the industrial software experience, going beyond HMI and SCADA, enabling industrial organizations of all sizes to develop collaborative workforces, scale effectively, and optimize operations for agility and efficiency.

From IIoT architectures and cloud-driven remote edge management to multi-site supervisory control, AVEVA™ Operations Control software will be available via a flexible user-centric model, through the AVEVA™ Flex Subscription program in three core packages: Edge, Supervisory and Enterprise. These core solutions provide all the necessary tools for plant, field, control room, and enterprise teams to drive actionable information, collaborate effectively, and accelerate operational excellence. The program also offers access to add-on functionality with AVEVA Manufacturing Execution, and AVEVA Insight for advanced AI and workflow management. AVEVA's new Operations Control software subscriptions now allow end customers to use all of its products, the way they want to use them.

AVEVA Operations Control offers an infinite range of possibilities for companies to connect operations and workers via the cloud, web and mobile to drive efficiency through collaboration and standardization. It delivers supervisory, visualization, collaboration, and analytics software in a single combined subscription providing unlimited access to actionable information. Every team, whether on the plant floor, in the control room, or operating across the enterprise, is empowered to do more, in collaborative alignment. Customers can build a reliable foundation towards operational excellence with AVEVA Operations Control.

AVEVA offers the first single subscription program on that market that spans edge-to-cloud solutions for plant operations. The AVEVA Flex subscription program is designed to provide access to the entire AVEVA portfolio – enabling customers to flexibly drive sustainable growth. It allows companies to achieve a faster return-on-investment, removing traditional barriers to software adoption and revolutionizing the purchase and consumption of industrial software. The subscription model enables simplicity in license purchasing, usage and management – aiding organizational digital transformation. In the FY21 fiscal year, AVEVA recorded strong subscriptions growth as businesses sought access to

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transformational technology on a flexible, agile basis. According to ARC Advisory Group, subscription-based models are predicted to grow at a pace nearly four times that of traditional software over the next five years in the industrial automation markets.

Craig Resnick, Vice President at ARC Advisory Group commented: “ARC anticipates that the subscription model growth rate will be significantly higher than the traditional licensing model growth rate for purchasing HMI/SCADA solutions going forward. This shift towards the subscription model is driven by a number of factors, including the market seeking single converged solutions, such as HMI/SCADA and asset performance management, that deliver great flexibility together with edge-to-cloud integration, a capability that AVEVA can deliver today as part of its AVEVA Flex subscription program.”

Rashesh Mody, SVP Monitoring and Control, AVEVA said: “Our solution is enabling teams in different physical locations to organize their operations, collaborate, and leverage vast internal knowledge. Most importantly, customers can now accelerate their digital transformation journey through one simple, agnostic subscription package.”

“Industrial organizations are increasingly aiming to utilize technology environments that will provide them with a comprehensive view of their field, control room and enterprise operational facilities. With AVEVA Operations Control they can now view end-to-end processes with an unlimited offering through the edge, enterprise and supervisory core functions,” Mody added.

“With AVEVA Operations Control available via the AVEVA Flex subscription program, channel partners can now offer outcome-based solutions and services to their customers. AVEVA’s offering is unique because it enables simple and flexible pricing – allowing our channel partners to differentiate themselves in the market and stay ahead of the competition,” said Kerry Grimes, Head of Global Partners at AVEVA.

End-to-end tube measurement in one software solution, from automation to portable probing and scanning

1 September 2021

Hexagon’s Manufacturing Intelligence division launched the new generation of its market-leading BendingStudio software platform. A specialised solution for tube measurement, analysis and production machine control, the new BendingStudio XT builds on the key existing features of the platform. This latest version supports ultra-high-speed camera-based measurement, both manual and automated, as well as portable measuring arm functionality covering laser scanning, touch probing and infrared probing. This full range of measurement hardware options makes BendingStudio XT a complete end-to-end solution for every application in the tube and wire production sector.

From tube and wire inspection to manufacturing and reverse engineering applications, BendingStudio XT is a full-featured measurement solution with the capacity to step beyond inspection to feedback directly into the production process. BendingStudio XT can connect directly to all prominent CNC bending machine models, allowing for the simple and immediate correction of production errors from directly within the software. When paired with high-resolution TubeInspect hardware, this process can even be completely automated with robot integration to deliver a 24/7 production-inspection feedback cycle right on the shop floor.

“With our existing BendingStudio and TubeShaper platforms, Hexagon brings unmatched expertise to the market when it comes to dedicated software for tube measurement”, says Stephan Amann, Metrology Devices VP Sales and Marketing at Hexagon. “With this latest generation of BendingStudio,

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we wanted to bring all that tube bending experience and expertise together within a single platform, something that would allow our tube production partners to get all their tube measurement functionality ‘under one roof’.”

Hexagon currently offers a wide range of hardware solutions for tube inspection, all of which are now compatible with measurement through BendingStudio XT. The TubeInspect range is a high-speed solution based on an array of cameras positioned within a self-contained measurement cell; it offers instantaneous high-definition measurement for even freeform tubes, with the option to be integrated within a full automated production line. The Absolute Arm offers more portable tube inspection, with the capability of measurement with the Absolute Scanner AS1 as well as with infrared tube probes or touch probes.

BendingStudio XT now supports Hexagon’s innovative rectangular tube measurement functionality, a key area for development in areas such as agricultural machinery production. Also added in BendingStudio XT is improved reporting functionality, with more flexibility for developing automated reporting custom-designed to fit the needs of individual use-cases.

With this new version, BendingStudio will retain all its previous capabilities, including the groundbreaking BendXtract algorithms that power the platform in providing free scanning, automatic extraction and smart reporting functionalities.

“Tube and wire production is everywhere, spanning industrial boundaries in a way seen for few other manufacturing applications, and that means any tube measurement solution demands an extremely high degree of flexibility”, explains Günter Suilmann, Global Sales Director for Tube Solutions. “Whether that’s freeform tubes, elastic wires, highly complex bends, bend-in-bend geometries, varying tube lengths, large diameters or otherwise unusual cross-sections, BendingStudio XT is a consolidated software platform capable of handling everything the tube industry can throw at it.”

BendingStudio XT is available immediately from Hexagon sales offices and distributors, both as a standalone software package for current TubeInspect and Absolute Arm owners and as a full product package including both the BendingStudio XT software and a TubeInspect cell or Absolute Arm with scanner. Current owners of BendingStudio who wish to add more hardware to their existing toolkit will be able to simply upgrade their existing software package alongside the purchase of a TubeInspect or Absolute Arm. For more information, contact a local Hexagon representative or visit HexagonMI.com/BendingStudioXT.

HCL TECHNOLOGIES LAUNCHES DEDICATED CISCO ECOSYSTEM UNIT — ADVANCING CLOUD SMART INNOVATION, GROWTH

1 September 2021

HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, has launched a dedicated HCL Cisco Ecosystem Unit focused on creating solutions to accelerate clients’ digital journeys.

HCL and Cisco have a long and successful 360-degree partnership that has enabled enterprises to accelerate their digital transformation journeys by helping them to invent and innovate – leveraging advanced technologies from Cisco and transformative services capabilities from HCL.

HCL’s Cisco Ecosystem Unit will create leading-edge competencies, solutions and business outcome models by leveraging Cisco technologies. It will aim to ensure the success of complex transformation programs around software-defined network transformation, network-as-a-service, digital workplace, multi-cloud modernization, hyper-automation, security, optimized application experience, private 5G and telco modernization.

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The HCL Cisco Ecosystem Unit will align with the #HCLCloudSmart strategy as a key pillar of its ecosystem operating model to help customers make intelligent choices for building a resilient and sustainable digital foundation that leverages Cisco's multiple platforms and solutions and HCL's transformational services consumable in a XaaS (anything-as-a-service) model.

"As organizations increase their post-pandemic application, network and cloud investments, they will need a strategy to deliver integrated secure cloud experiences to their customers with flexible consumption models," said Oliver Tuszik, Senior Vice President, Global Partner Sales for Cisco Systems. "The HCL Cisco Ecosystem Unit – anchored by HCL's industry cloud consulting and managed services with Cisco's cross-architecture solutions – is able to help organizations connect, secure and automate to accelerate their digital agility in a cloud-first world."

HCL Technologies creates and applies tomorrow's technology today. In its cutting-edge labs and delivery centers across multiple geographies, HCL teams up with Cisco to develop game-changing technology and industry solutions that accelerate scaled digital journeys and enhance its clients' customer experience.

"We are pleased to announce the launch of our Cisco Ecosystem Unit, in line with our strategy of ecosystem-based innovation and growth," said Kalyan Kumar, Chief Technology Officer and Head, Ecosystems, HCL Technologies. "Together, we will invest in creating joint solutions and IPs to enable our clients to derive the benefits of digitization faster and easier in a secure way. The unit will further boost the #HCLCloudSmart strategy by providing industry-specific, full-stack offerings that help enterprises adapt to the demands of today's dynamic business environment."

Hexagon unveils platform to accelerate autonomous quality assurance for Industry 4.0

26 August 2021

Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division, which supplies smart manufacturing technologies to giants from Volkswagen to Boeing, has unveiled HxGN Robotic Automation, pioneering robotic programming and control software that enables non-specialist quality professionals to program industrial robots to perform fully automated quality inspection.

The platform enables manufacturers to equip greenfield factories or retrofit existing production lines with state-of-the-art autonomous optical inspection cells, accelerating time to market by eliminating historic bottlenecks while providing more complete data direct from the production line as products are made.

HxGN Robotic Automation enables manufacturers to accelerate adoption of Industry 4.0 by intelligently devising optimal inspection routines in a single step; a task that would typically demand significant time and attention from both a metrology and robotics professional. With HxGN Robotic Automation, manufacturers can now develop the programme offline, away from the production line in a digital reality, and deploy a robust programme to the robotic cell. The software is already used by market leaders such as ŠKODA AUTO to enhance their manufacturing production lines.

Martin Jehlička, Chief of Measurement Centre at ŠKODA AUTO, said "We have reduced the time required to programme robotic inspection from several days to just four hours using the new software, so we can be ready and waiting to inspect a new vehicle as soon as we want to begin production. Robotic automation and Hexagon's high-speed laser scanning systems have already halved the inspection time for parts and sub-assemblies, and installing these automated inspection cells on the production line is fundamental to our Industry 4.0 strategy of making data available and actionable so quality trends can be identified quickly, or in some cases automatically corrected."

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Built on open design principles, the software interfaces with any new or existing industrial robots and is flexible so that quality professionals can employ the most appropriate metrology sensors to help rapidly future-proof factories with real-time, inline metrology. By enabling real-time measurement data to be automatically captured at source and used to optimise production in real-time, the technology embeds quality assurance in the heart of production to enable faster, self-correcting manufacturing and free up staff time for other tasks, such as data analysis.

The technology allows quality professionals to multiply their efforts in improving quality assurance across a manufacturing line, driving consistent quality and consolidating metrology data throughout manufacturing lines. Robust offline programming makes it possible to repurpose or hone metrology cells with minimal production downtime, maintaining more agile manufacturing operations and enabling new cell-based manufacturing models that are based on achieving product customisation and speed without sacrificing the efficiencies associated with volume production.

With growing demand for vertical integration to consolidate quality control across diverse supply lines, the new software can work with everything from small to extra-large part sizes and from simple single fixed robot cells to complex cells with multiple sensors and robots on rails and tables.

The resulting metrology data will also help improve design simulations by enabling manufacturers to predict the as-manufactured performance of products at design stage, for example by anticipating residual stresses that could be caused during casting. Rich, real-time, in-line metrology data could fuel future machine learning systems to optimise designs, parts and production processes and create increasingly autonomous self-correcting production lines.

Stephen Graham, President of Metrology and Production Software at Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division, said: "Automating inspection is vital to enable OEMs to consolidate quality across increasingly diverse, complex products and processes. Truly smart manufacturing needs swift, accurate and accessible measurement data, but many robotic inspection systems are costly, complex, closed systems that are incompatible with manufacturer's chosen tools and inaccessible to non-specialists. HxGN Robotic Automation is built around openness, so that manufacturers can swiftly and seamlessly future-proof entire manufacturing lines for robotic inspection."

HxGN Robotic Automation supports Hexagon laser trackers, Leica T-Scan and AS1 scanners and directly interfaces with FANUC and KUKA robots while built-in postprocessors enable the robot controller to work with a wide range of third-party robots. Future versions will support the HxGN SLS Structured Light Scanner and third-party sensors.

Introducing OpticStudio Short-term Licenses: Available now on our Website

25 August 2021

Zemax is pleased to announce that we are now offering short-term licenses for OpticStudio purchasable on a self-serve basis through eCommerce on our website.

What is an OpticStudio short-term license?

New from Zemax, OpticStudio short-term licenses offer time-limited access to the current version of OpticStudio for a month at a time. These subscription licenses are suitable for optical engineers with short-term needs (smaller optical design projects, temporary need for additional seats at an enterprise to handle a "surge" in workloads, training courses, or just personal projects). Short-term licenses are best for users with projects expected to last for 1 to 3 months and offer access to the latest version of OpticStudio at a considerably lower cost and flexibility compared to an annual, renewable subscription commitment. This could be attractive to startups, consultants, or optical engineers with an occasional

need for OpticStudio.

How do I purchase an OpticStudio short-term license?

Customers with short-term license needs can now purchase short-term single-user licenses through eCommerce on our **OpticStudio** product page. This is a credit card-only system. You will want to scroll down the page and then click “Buy Monthly”. This will add the license to the shopping cart. You then open the shopping cart and fill out the form including your credit card information. Your order will be submitted, and you will hear back from our order processing team within one business day. You will then download the software and use the license key provided by our order processing team. At the end of the license period, you will no longer be able to use OpticStudio.

Can I start short-term and extend my license for a longer period?

Short-term licenses have an auto-renew option at checkout. If you enable the auto-renew, your credit card will be charged monthly, and your license will renew each month.

How do I get support?

Short-term licenses include access to our product documentation, knowledge base articles, and community forums to help answer your questions.

ModuleWorks Launches Clear Aligner Trimming Software

2 September 2021

ModuleWorks, a leading supplier of CAM software components, announces its new clear aligner trimming software for dental CAM. The new ModuleWorks TrimLine software simplifies and accelerates the fabrication of clear aligners by automatically calculating the optimal trim line and generating a collision-free trimming toolpath.

Clear aligners are transparent splints for correcting the position of teeth and are typically manufactured by thermoforming a 3D-printed model of the patient’s teeth. The excess material left on the thermoformed aligner requires precise removal because the accuracy of the cut line (the trim line) determines the aesthetic quality of the aligner and whether it is a comfortable fit for the patient. In some cases this needs a skilled technician to manually draw the trim line, which is time consuming and adds to the cost of the aligner.

To automate and speed up production, the new ModuleWorks **TrimLine Finder** automatically determines the optimal position and shape of the trim line from the input CAD geometry and from optional parameters and criteria entered by the technician. Manual drawing is not necessary which saves time and costs for each patient order.

The ModuleWorks **TrimLine NC** helps to automate the process of trimming the aligner itself, using either a CNC machine or a robotic arm. Intelligent toolpath algorithms with advanced collision checking automatically generate a collision-free toolpath that remains within the machine limits. Optimizing the toolpath not only reduces trimming time, but also creates a clean trim and high-quality finish.

The ModuleWorks TrimLine software components are now available for integration in OEM dental CAM laboratory solutions and dental practice solutions. A standalone application is also available.

Rand Simulation Enables Utilities to Predict Design Flaws for Battery Energy Storage Systems

1 September 2021

Rand Simulation, a division of Rand Worldwide, offers utilities, and the engineering firms that support them, a proven team of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) experts that help design cooling and ventilation systems for new electrical and energy storage projects, as well as identify and correct failures that occur within existing projects. With years of microgrid experience, Rand Simulation successfully brings design insights to these systems, including experience working with the world's largest standalone solar and energy storage project.

“When a utility or partnering engineering firm is looking for a simulation partner, it is crucial to bring them in during the project design phase to accurately define the specific requirements of a battery enclosure’s cooling and ventilation needs based on detailed simulation analysis,” says Jason Pfeiffer, vice president, Rand Simulation. “This is critical to gain pre-installation confidence and mitigate future issues. Rand Simulation’s unique methodology combines deep thermo aerodynamics expertise, in-the-field battery storage experience and leverages Ansys’ industry leading engineering simulation toolsets to deliver on any project with confidence.

“Rand Simulation’s support has been instrumental in guiding us down the right path to meet stringent manufacturer temperature requirements and tight power purchase agreement schedules,” says Tony Slaton Barker, PE, vice president of energy and sustainability, Coffman Engineers. “Their CFD experts continuously review our projects, create new analyses and support engineering as well as construction modifications for our HVAC systems, thus drastically increasing battery operability and life span.

As an Ansys Elite Partner, Rand Simulation helps utilities modernize their grids by designing proven cooling and ventilation systems based on rigorous CFD analysis. Using the specific operating criteria of custom energy storage systems such as battery capacity and electricity discharge rates, Rand Simulation experts evaluate HVAC performance, quantify temperature uniformity in battery enclosures, resolve aging discrepancies between batteries, solve end of life capacity problems and more.

What’s new: Simcenter Testlab 2021.2

2 September 2021

The 2021.2 release of Simcenter Testlab updates functionality in the following areas:

- System NVH prediction with Virtual Prototype Assembly
- Advanced operational NVH testing
- Simplified and more effective collaboration, comparison and reporting
- Productive testing in harsh and demanding conditions

To learn about these changes read the full Siemens blog at

<https://blogs.sw.siemens.com/simcenter/whats-new-simcenter-testlab-2021-2/>.