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CIMdata News

IoT Transforms Operations & Maintenance

9 August 2023

Industrial operations and maintenance processes facilitated with IoT-enabled smart assets

Key Takeaways

- The usage of Internet of Things (IoT) connected devices in industrial settings is expanding rapidly across many sectors.
- Industrial users of capital assets are benefitting from the use of IoT to improve asset uptime and automate business processes in production and maintenance, repair, and operations/overhaul (MRO).
- Asset manufacturers are also benefitting through the efficient provisioning of smart services to support their customers and by leveraging valuable operational information.
- CONTACT Software has extensive experience in supporting the use of IoT for improving the management of industrial assets.

Introduction

The Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) connects factory machines and equipment with software services that focus on optimizing manufacturing processes and enabling digital services for smart products. For factory operators, IIoT opens new opportunities for them to monitor usage and improve maintenance processes for their industrial assets. For manufacturers of industrial assets, IIoT is enabling the provision of new value-added services for “on demand” maintenance and support.

The global market for IIoT sensors, networks, and compute power is growing rapidly. In 2021 it was sized at over US\$263 billion and is expected to reach some US\$1.11 trillion by 2028. As the volume of connected devices continues to increase exponentially, enterprises are looking for solutions to help them manage and interpret the data being created.

The Growing Use of Industrial IoT

With the advent of cloud computing providing low-cost storage, edge computing devices, and the falling price of sensors of all kinds, IIoT has become a practical reality in the last 10 years. Many benefits have been claimed for the use of IIoT and some of these are summarized below:

- Remote Operations: IIoT makes it possible to visualize, track, and control facilities and assets without staff having to be onsite.
- Predictive Maintenance: Through the use of sensors, IIoT allows anomalies or problems with equipment to be detected in real-time, minimizing downtime, improving productivity, and avoiding costly repairs.

- **Process Optimization:** Monitoring the entire production line helps identify bottlenecks, enabling optimization of any line's accuracy, speed, and production volume.
- **Sustainability:** Continuous monitoring allows energy consumption to be predicted and optimized, not just for equipment but the overall production operation.

Although the use of IIoT devices has grown rapidly, the number of legacy networks and devices is still significant and are expected to be around for a long time. This means that new IIoT projects need to combine new devices and technology with legacy systems and equipment. There are no easy answers at this stage as standards for interoperability between IIoT and networks that include “non-smart” legacy equipment are still emerging.

As the adoption of IIoT continues and devices become more capable, opportunities are emerging for manufacturers and operators of industrial assets to work together. This allows each party to focus on their strengths—optimizing machine operations and efficiently managing factory output respectively. This has led asset manufacturers to increasingly provide services to proactively monitor equipment in use by their customers and switch from scheduled to “on demand” support and maintenance, relieving the asset operator of the responsibility. As well as providing a means to increase customer satisfaction and develop a new revenue stream, this approach provides asset manufacturers with valuable feedback on product usage and issues leading to proactive solutions for current and future products.

Recently, many organizations have begun experimenting with “digital twins”—accurate models of machines and factories that combine data from many different sources (i.e., IIoT sensor data, software and hardware configurations, maintenance histories, etc.). In many cases these digital twins are using 3D design and simulation data to complement the operational information and provide a complete model that can be used to monitor usage and forecast future events. Digital twins present a holistic view of information about the asset and are creating new opportunities for operators to optimize use of their machines and for manufacturers to provide enhanced customer services.

All of these changes can be seen as part of the digital transformation of the factory. Digital transformation is a strategy for dramatically improving business operations, including profit margins, quality, and speed to market by leveraging data, corporate knowledge, and information technologies in a highly effective and efficient manner. A key facilitator of digital transformation in industrial companies will be the convergence of Operational Technology (OT) with Information Technology (IT) and Engineering Technology (ET). This convergence promises to accelerate the evolution of IIoT from a stand-alone technology to an integral part of the overall computing strategy of both machine operators and manufacturers.

Harnessing the Potential of IoT for Industry

CONTACT Software has many years of experience of supporting industrial asset operators and manufacturers. Their flagship product in this space is CONTACT Elements for IoT—a standards-based platform that provides comprehensive capabilities to display, monitor, and evaluate the history and current state of industrial assets. It is used as an IoT-enabled asset management

system which can be expanded by standard modules for either service management or shop-floor management, depending on the customers’ needs.

CONTACT Software's solution, as illustrated in Figure 1, allows users to fully monitor and control their machines and factory environment in one place. The solution can be quickly configured to create a digital twin of the customer’s asset and factory environment, and define rules for identifying events and desired responses including alerts. Comprehensive data analytics simplify tasks like problem identification, machine monitoring, maintenance scheduling, energy optimization, and many others.

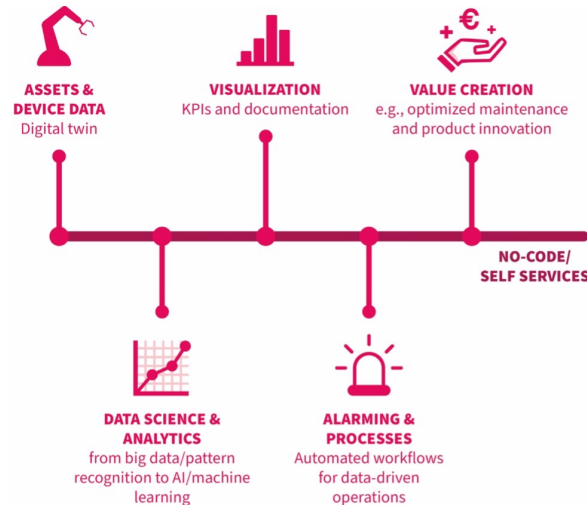


Figure 1—CONTACT Elements Architecture
 (Courtesy CONTACT Software)

The modular software, as delivered by CONTACT Software, features low-code/no-code development tools, requires minimal customization, and can be implemented in as little as 30 days including customization. The solution typically runs at the enterprise level but can also operate on an edge computing device. In the case of enterprise level deployments, customers have the option to run the solution either on-premises, in their own cloud, or in the CONTACT Software cloud.

Additionally, CONTACT Software offers a Proof of Concept to demonstrate the value of their solution and access to experienced consultants who can help clients to build a business case.

Customer Case Studies

thyssenkrupp Dynamic Components

thyssenkrupp Dynamic Components is a leading global manufacturer of powertrain components. The company produces annually a total of 27 million camshafts, variable valve train systems, and rotor shafts for internal combustion, hybrid, and electric engines at 10 locations on several continents. Dynamic Components is part of thyssenkrupp’s Automotive Technology business. The powertrain specialist ensures end-to-end PLM processes with CIM Database and real-time production control with CONTACT Elements for IoT.

HBC-radiomatic

HBC-radiomatic is the global technology leader in industrial radio controls. Their innovative products are designed to ensure the safe and convenient operation of machines in a wide variety of industries. These include lifting and loading cranes, excavators, concrete pumps, and heavy-duty transporters. The company provides quality and service to its customers with its global partner network. With a service portal based on CONTACT Elements for IoT, HBC accelerates global service processes and combines the advantages of PLM and IoT to improve development methods.

CONTACT Software Background

CONTACT Software was founded in 1990 with the objectives of making complex product data more accessible and connecting employees across technical and organizational boundaries.

CONTACT Software has pioneered a number of innovative operating concepts including CIM Database; AgileRules, a methodology for development projects that allows objectives to be achieved more reliably; CONTACT Workspaces, for more efficient collaboration between teams and companies; and CONTACT Elements for IoT, a platform for solutions for data-driven processes using digital twins of industrial assets.

CONTACT's customers operate in a number of markets and include the following examples:

- Automotive: thyssenkrupp Dynamic Components, KIRCHHOFF Automotive.
- Industrial Equipment: SIG Combibloc.
- Medical Devices: Olympus Surgical Technologies Europe.
- High-Tech Electronics: Weidmüller Interface.
- Consumer Products: ABUS August Bremicker Söhne.
- Logistics & Infrastructure: EWE Netz.

Conclusions

From its early beginnings with PLCs connected to proprietary networks, the usage of IIoT devices has expanded rapidly across industry and is expected to triple over the next five years.

Industrial users of capital assets are benefitting from the use of IIoT to improve asset uptime and improve maintenance management, while asset manufacturers are growing their businesses and cutting their costs through the provision of “on demand” services for maintenance and support.

As IIoT usage grows, the need for solutions to help users remain in control and extract the maximum benefits from their IIoT investments becomes more acute. One such solution is provided by CONTACT Software, who has long experience in supporting the use of IIoT for improving the management of industrial assets. Their modular, flexible platform (CONTACT Elements for IoT) is easily implemented and is already in use with many organizations across multiple industries. Industrial companies who are committed to the use of IIoT are encouraged to review and evaluate the CONTACT Software solution.

Acquisitions

Accenture Completes Acquisition of Anser Advisor

8 August 2023

Accenture has completed the acquisition of Anser Advisory, an advisory and management company for infrastructure projects in the United States. The acquisition enhances Accenture's ability to help companies and state and local public sector organizations complete large, long-term infrastructure projects more predictably and efficiently—projects that support growth for clients and have a positive impact on communities.

The move expands Accenture's capital project capabilities and was first announced on June 21, 2023. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Anser Advisory's services span advisory, compliance, and management services; with a rare mix of strategy expertise and hands-on know-how from working with owners' engineering, procurement and construction providers on the ground. These capabilities resulted in a proven track record of reducing the risks and impacts of project delays and cost overruns on large-scale critical infrastructure projects.

Bechtle acquires IT consulting company, sastema

8 August 2023

In sastema GmbH, Bechtle has acquired a specialist in Identity & Access Management (IAM), governance, risk and compliance management and information security. Founded in 2018, the IT company based in Hünfelden near Frankfurt/Main employs 21 staff and achieved revenues of 2.2 million euros in the last fiscal year. It will be fully integrated into the Bechtle IT System House Frankfurt and a new IAM Competence Centre established headed up by sastema managing director, Sven Almoril. In doing so, Bechtle Frankfurt is expanding its security portfolio to better serve its customers in the finance and insurance sectors. The Competence Centre's services will be available to all Bechtle Group companies.

"Welcoming sastema's team of outstandingly trained specialists on board will significantly strengthen our IT security offering, which is an area of growing importance for businesses in light of increasing cybersecurity and regulatory pressures," says Martin Schmidl, Managing Director, Bechtle IT System House Frankfurt. Bechtle already has an IAM Competence Centre in Switzerland, which will collaborate closely with the new one, plus IAM as a Service products will be marketed in collaboration with Bechtle Managed Services.

"Against the backdrop of sastema's impressive growth over the last few years, we were on the lookout for a strategic partner to support us in the next stage of our development and perfectly complement our expertise. In Bechtle, we found the ideal environment, the perfect customer structure and excellent opportunities for growth, which ticked every box," says Sven Almoril, Founder, Shareholder and Managing Director of sastema.

The Bechtle IT System House Frankfurt opened its doors 20 years ago and has since established itself in the Rhine-Main region employing 140 staff in highly-modern offices in the suburb, Gateway Gardens.

Bechtle acquires IT system house in Spain

7 August 2023

Bechtle has acquired Prosol Ingeniería S.L. and Prosol Iscat S.L. to broaden its Spanish portfolio and include IT services for the first time. Together, the two companies employ 50 staff and achieved revenues of some 15 million euros in 2022 at their sites in Las Rozas, near Madrid, and Terrassa, close to Barcelona. Prosol has been active on the Spanish market as a systems integrator for the industrial sector since 1996, offering services that now complement Bechtle's e-commerce business in the country. For Prosol's founder, managing director and primary shareholder, Manuel Climent, the sale to Bechtle is also a way to secure his succession, although he will stay on board in an advisory capacity during the period of integration. The three remaining members of the board overseeing sales, technology and finance will remain in their positions. Juan-José Moneo will take over the reins of the company alongside his role of Managing Director of Bechtle direct Spain.

With Prosol, Bechtle is continuing to pursue its European expansion strategy, bolstering its portfolio in those countries where it already has an active e-commerce presence. Following acquisitions in the DACH region, the IT service provider has most recently purchased companies in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and France (subject to regulatory approval). Bechtle direct opened its doors in Spain in 2001 and also has sites in Madrid and Barcelona. Besides its portfolio, Prosol also brings an expanded customer base and will strengthen the IT provider's partnerships with important manufacturers.

"As the founder, it is extremely important to me that the company is in good hands and our employees enjoy excellent future prospects. I'm therefore delighted to have found a strong international player in the IT market in Bechtle. Our own activities tie in perfectly with Bechtle's, spelling a great opportunity for all stakeholders," says Manuel Climent, Founder and Managing Director of Prosol.

Prosol and Bechtle are expanding each other's offering to their existing customers and are also working on strengthening relationships with manufacturing partners and distributors. "We are very pleased to welcome an excellent team in Prosol to support us as we set our sights on continued expansion in Spain. This is a new chapter for both of us," says Juan-José Moneo, Managing Director of Bechtle direct Spain. "Our aim is to better serve our customers' needs through continuous organic growth, but also further strategic acquisitions such as that of Prosol and establish ourselves among the top 5 IT providers on the Spanish market." Bechtle direct in Spain currently employs 82 staff and achieved revenues of 84 million euros in the last fiscal year.

Prosol will continue to operate under its brand until fully integrated, after which it will serve its public-sector and business customers under the Bechtle name.

As is usual, the purchase price and conditions remain confidential.

Tango, Leading Provider of Cloud-Based Real Estate and Facilities Management Software, Acquires WatchWire

11 August 2023

Acquisition will deliver an integrated solution to help customers meet and comply with energy management and sustainability goals across the real estate lifecycle

[Tango](#), a leading provider of cloud-based real estate and facilities management software, today announced it has acquired [WatchWire](#), an industry leader in data and analytics that helps companies reduce emissions and energy expenses while simplifying sustainability and carbon reporting. The transaction further extends Tango's position as a global leader in the real estate and facilities management space, enabling companies to meet their energy management and sustainability goals. WatchWire's leadership team will join Tango to continue developing and progressing these key capabilities. Financial terms of the private transaction were not disclosed.

"Faced with a rapidly changing macro and regulatory environment, active sustainability and energy management has become essential to long-term organizational success," said [Pranav Tyagi](#), President and Chief Executive Officer of Tango. "Tango has a longstanding reputation for solving the complex, location-based compliance and reporting needs of our customers, as well as helping companies effectively manage and control occupancy costs. With the addition of WatchWire, we will provide customers information that arms them to understand their environmental impact and deliver on energy and sustainability management initiatives."

Founded in 2000 and based in New York City, WatchWire provides the deepest and most comprehensive integrated energy management and sustainability platform in the industry, enabling companies to automate the collection and validation of sustainability and energy related data. Its solutions then operationalize the data for reporting, compliance and identifying additional opportunities to meet *environmental*, energy and climate targets. The combined business will serve over 500 customers in more than 140 countries from its primary offices in Dallas and New York.

A strong relationship between owners and the users of real estate is critical to ensuring accurate, active tracking and reporting on energy and sustainability. Tango brings considerable experience to the establishment and management of that relationship through its work in transaction management, lease management and facilities maintenance, and will help bridge the communication gap between owners and operators to address their joint energy and sustainability management requirements and deliver on decarbonization objectives.

"We are excited to be joining the preeminent real estate and facilities management solution in the industry," said [Andy Anderson](#), CEO of WatchWire. "Combining the vast amount of validated energy data available in the WatchWire platform with Tango's real estate and facilities management capabilities will enable companies to support the accurate tracking and reporting that customers require, and operationalize insights about how to lower costs and improve sustainability. WatchWire customers will also benefit from the end-to-end real estate and facilities solution that Tango offers."

“Since our initial investment in Tango, we have been focused on adding a sustainability and energy reporting capability, as these offerings will help Tango extend its leadership position in the real estate management software market,” said [Jon Nuger](#), a Managing Director at Berkshire Partners, which made a growth investment in Tango in 2021. “We are excited to partner with Pranav and the management team as they harness Tango’s and WatchWire’s combined capabilities to empower organizations to improve energy efficiency, enhance sustainability and reduce cost.”

Harris Williams acted as exclusive financial advisor to Tango and Berkshire Partners on the acquisition of WatchWire. GrowthPoint Technology Partners, a San Francisco-based technology investment bank, acted as exclusive financial advisor to WatchWire.

Company News

3D Printing Meets Industrial Construction: Europe's Largest 3D Building is Being Built in Heidelberg/Germany

7 August 2023

Following Germany's first printed house, a consortium of Mense-Korte and SSV Architekten are now dedicating themselves to Europe's largest printed building. For the design of a server hotel for Heidelberg iT, the planning offices relied on, among other things, the software of ALLPLAN, a provider of BIM solutions for the AEC industry.

Mense-Korte ingenieure + architekten are the German pioneers of 3D printing in construction and are known for Germany's first 3D-printed house in Beckum. In Heidelberg, their expertise in additive construction is now in demand for another pioneering project: together with SSV Architekten as ARGE, the planning and construction supervision for the printing of a server hotel for Heidelberg iT is being created. This is the first time in the world that 3D printing technology has been used in industrial construction. At the same time, this is the largest printed building in Europe to date. For the architects, the project offers the opportunity to further explore the potential of the new construction method. In at least one respect, the process has already been further developed since the house in Beckum.

"For us as pioneers in 3D printing, using Allplan is a key advantage. It not only supports us in realizing unique and innovative building projects like this one, but also allows us to further maximize the potential of this new construction method," says Waldemar Korte, architect and partner at Mense-Korte.

170 hours printing time for the building shell

The new building is an impressive 54 meters long, 11 meters wide, and 9 meters high. Printing has been in progress since March 31, with the shell of the building to be completed by the end of July. According to the client KRAUSGRUPPE, the pure printing time is only 170 hours, while only two construction workers are needed on the building site. According to architects Waldemar Korte (Mense-Korte) and Jan van der Velden-Volkman (SSV Architekten), this construction method requires considerably more discipline. The special attraction of the

technology, on the other hand, lies in the fact that 3D printing can be used to generate free-form shapes much more cost-effectively than with other construction methods and materials.

Planning again in Allplan

Old acquaintances who already played an essential role in the building in Beckum are once again involved: MENSE-KORTE have been working with Allplan since the program was first introduced, and so the planning for the server hotel in Heidelberg was also carried out using, among other things, a 3D building model in the BIM software. In addition, PERI 3D Construction is involved with its giant COBOD BOD2 printer, which prints the vertical elements of the structure. Heidelberg Materials (formerly HeidelbergCement) is also involved again as the manufacturer of the printing medium. The latter has since been greatly improved, particularly with regards to sustainability. According to the company, the 3D printed concrete used for the first printed house in Germany was already 100 percent recyclable.

3D Systems & Theradaptive Establish Commercial Partnership to Advance Orthopedic & Soft Tissue Repair Using Breakthrough Regenerative Therapeutics

9 August 2023

[3D Systems](#), the leading additive manufacturing solutions partner, and [Theradaptive](#), a biopharmaceutical company breaking new ground in targeted regenerative therapeutics, announced they have entered a commercial agreement naming 3D Systems as Theradaptive's exclusive 3D printing partner. The companies intend to deliver a novel approach to promote bone and tissue growth using Theradaptive's unique protein-based material-binding variants to coat 3D Systems' 3D-printed medical devices. This solution has the potential to provide patients with an opportunity for improved healing and thus better outcomes.

Theradaptive's Founder, Luis M. Alvarez, Ph.D., conceived of the protein-engineering technology after witnessing extremity injuries that resulted in delayed amputations among servicemembers. His subsequent research into bone and tissue regeneration at MIT focused on addressing the limitations associated with existing regenerative medicine approaches such as achieving anatomically precise outcomes and ultra-persistent local delivery of therapeutics. The first applications of this technology have already earned three [Breakthrough Medical Device](#) designations from the FDA to address degenerative disc disease and spinal fusion.

As the original innovator of 3D printing and a pioneer in personalized healthcare solutions, 3D Systems has worked with surgeons for over a decade to plan more than 150,000 patient-specific cases, and additively manufacture more than two million implants and instruments for 100+ CE-marked and FDA-cleared devices from its world-class, FDA-registered, ISO 13485-certified facilities. 3D Systems has also made significant strides in regenerative medicine, most recently announcing its [Regenerative Tissue Program](#).

"This agreement enables an exciting technological convergence of 3D Systems' cutting-edge advances in orthopedic and soft tissue additive manufacturing and Theradaptive's material-binding regenerative therapeutics," said Luis Alvarez, CEO and founder of Theradaptive. "Uniting these two world-class technologies promises to provide safer and more effective

treatment options for patients who currently have few options. This partnership sets the stage for many new products that will have the potential to significantly improve patient care.”

“The combination of both companies' expertise and experience and relentless pursuit of enabling an improved patient experience is a strong foundation for this collaboration,” said Andrew Johnson, EVP, chief corporate development officer, chief legal counsel, 3D Systems. “We believe that enhancing 3D Systems’ unparalleled capabilities in medical device design and production with the benefits of Theradaptive’s protein-engineering platform has the potential to make a significant impact on the field of regenerative medicine, and patients’ lives.”

In addition to being named as Theradaptive’s exclusive 3D printing partner, 3D Systems also made an \$8 million investment in the company.

Aspen Technology Helps Companies Address Generational Workforce Shifts with Industry Domain Training Program

11 August 2023

Comprehensive Curriculum Helps Address Skills Gaps in New Workforce

Aspen Technology, Inc., a global leader in industrial software, introduced an industry domain training program for companies in asset-intensive industries who are onboarding recently graduated engineers. The comprehensive program is designed to enable new process engineers, control engineers, reliability engineers, supply chain planners, cost estimators and others to build industry-specific competencies within each of these roles.

AspenTech created the program specifically to help industrial companies navigate considerable gaps in industry domain knowledge as specialized senior engineers retire and a new generation enters the workforce. For example, in a recent survey entitled Gaps in the Energy Workforce, conducted by the Center for Energy Workforce Development, there is a considerable increase in younger populations (younger than 32) within the energy workforce, including 43% of technicians and 25% of engineers.

“To keep up with a dramatically shifting workforce and the related market demands, it is crucial that companies build and retain organizational competency,” said David Reumuth, Sr. Director, Customer Support and Training, AspenTech. “Last fall, AspenTech introduced a sustainability-specific training program. This is now complemented with a broader curriculum that prepares new engineers to more quickly develop industry-specific competencies required to succeed in the process industries. This program helps companies achieve operational excellence and positions their new-generation workforce to address their operational business challenges.”

The curriculum was designed in partnership with leading domain experts, such as Becht, a 60-year-old engineering services company serving energy, chemicals, power and alternative energy industries, to offer integrated process, refining, and chemicals domain practice for a holistic, real-world learning experience. More than 1000 users from 150+ companies across the globe have already completed the training.

This initial curriculum is available in both virtual and live classroom settings and all courses are led by industry domain experts who have decades of hands-on experience. Participants gain

process-specific knowledge required for their roles and have the opportunity to consult with industry experts about their unique process challenges. When surveyed by AspenTech, 99% of new workforce attendees say this type of training should be required when entering the process industries and 96% say they are better prepared to do their jobs because of the training.

Department Of Transportation Veterans Bill Panos And Sheilah Brous Joining Bentley Systems

11 August 2023

Bentley Systems, Incorporated, the infrastructure engineering software company, today announced the appointment of Bill Panos as Senior Director, North America Transportation and Sheilah Brous as Senior Director, North America Mobility. Panos will lead a dedicated team in driving the growth of Bentley's Enterprise Public Sector programs and transportation partnerships. Brous will focus on ensuring the delivery of best-in-class outcomes. She reports to Panos, who reports to Vice President, Regional Executive, Americas Ken MacArthur.

Panos brings four decades of experience in the government and private sectors to Bentley's new leadership role. Previously, Panos was a member of governors' cabinets in two states, serving as Director and Chief Executive Officer for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT). He also served as a director for the City and Port of West Sacramento, California, as construction executive for the state of Washington, and as a state agency director for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His private sector work included serving as Vice President and Senior Director for management consulting, energy advisory services, and integrated risk management at Gannett Fleming and as Group Manager at TRW Automotive Group.

Panos is a public sector and transportation thought leader and has received numerous national awards throughout his career. He is a fellow of the Council of State Governments and a board member for the Intelligent Transportation Society of America. Formerly, Panos served on the executive committee for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and as President of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Panos's new chapter with Bentley will build on his acumen and experience as a trusted advisor, committed to providing innovative solutions and pragmatic tools that will support the Bentley North America team and its users while, ultimately, expanding the benefits of infrastructure to communities across North America.

Panos said, "Bentley has a long history helping to solve the transportation sector's toughest problems. Joining this team is thrilling and purposeful, and I can't wait to grow with them."

Brous complements Panos's background with nearly 30 years of organization, process, and policy experience in the public and private sectors, including in federal, state, and local government. Prior to joining Bentley, Brous served as Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office, Policy and Regulations Director. She oversaw and directed administrative policy

development and maintenance for more than 10,000 employees and contractors. Brous was designated to serve as lead for MDOT's 2023 gubernatorial transition.

Brous's early career highlights include serving as Government Relations Manager and Acting Director of federal, state, and local government affairs for WSSC Water, among the largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation. Brous worked directly with the White House, Congress, state legislature, and local governments on legislation, funding opportunities, education, and advocacy. This role earned Brous both the Commission and General Manager's achievement awards.

"Bill and Sheilah bring their own unique and sought-after skillsets to the team. Bill brings over 40 years of experience in technology applications and engineering. He has an inherent understanding of the inner workings of DOTs and what executive leaders need. Sheilah brings over 20 years of experience at the federal, state, and local levels, including 10 years in the MDOT Secretary's office. These additions to our team further reinforce the value Bentley places in helping to deliver on DOT priorities to serve the citizens of their states," said MacArthur.

HammerTech Moves One Step Closer to Unicorn Status as It Helps Construction Companies Overcome the Industry's Mounting Challenges

8 August 2023

HammerTech, the world's leading compliance, risk and safety software for the construction industry, today released impressive metrics as it inches towards its predicted unicorn status by addressing the most pressing needs of construction companies and workers worldwide. The company also shared details on its global expansion into the UK, Ireland and Canada, five years after entering the U.S. market.

"The increase in workplace injuries and accidents on construction sites is concerning. Our mission to help make sites safer is rooted in developing solutions that solve real problems for teams in the field while creating valuable insights to save time and make informed safety and operational decisions," said HammerTech Co-founder and CEO Ben Leach. "We ensure teams aren't anchored in the site office and can easily communicate with subcontractors to markedly improve collaboration around EHS requirements. It takes time to establish yourself in new markets, however it is clear the mission and product are resonating which explains our sustained growth."

HammerTech's construction EHS software is now used by more than 400 clients and 15,000 projects globally. This translates to over 3 million worker inductions completed in the HammerTech platform and represents a 40% increase in the number of North American clients within the last 12 months. Additionally, the company posted strong revenue growth year-over-year, with an above industry retention rate of 94% at a time when many technology providers are seeing retention collapse.

Moving Into New Territory

Currently, 85% of the Top 100 builders in Australia use HammerTech's digital platform to consolidate safety and site operations processes into one paperless system. Since expanding

into the U.S. market in 2018, the company has followed a similar trajectory, with its first client, DPR Construction, still a blue-chip partner in the HammerTech Community today. HammerTech has added many top ENR clients over the past year, with an emerging hub of contractors headquartered out of the Midwest and East Coast, including national players FCL Builders, Shawmut Design and Construction and Power Construction. As the company broadens its reach across North America, it has been a part of several marquee projects, including the Squamish Nation Nch'kay Development Corporation and Westbank First Nation-sponsored, Señákw project in Vancouver, B.C being built by Peak Construction Group, as well as MIT's adaptive reuse of the Metropolitan Storage Warehouse, in Cambridge, MA, being built by Shawmut Design and Construction.

Industry demand for HammerTech's technology has escalated throughout the world, as it works with global contractors who deliver high-profile global clients in the technology and pharmaceutical sectors. To fully support such demand, the company recently announced its expansion into the UK and Ireland while increasing its presence in New Zealand and Canada. The company has doubled headcount over the past two years, with employees spread between offices in its primary locations: Australia, the U.S., Canada, the UK, Ireland, and New Zealand.

As part of its effort to serve new customers and meet a broader range of needs and workflows, HammerTech is also investing deeply in product development, with new capabilities set to debut later this year.

Hexagon appoints Mattias Tidebrink to lead APAC region for Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial division

11 August 2023

Hexagon's Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial division recently named Mattias Tidebrink to head the division's Asia Pacific (APAC) region. He will be responsible for setting the strategic direction, focusing on long-term growth and profitability.

"Appointing a leader of Tidebrink's caliber underscores the importance that we place on the APAC region, where we have operated for more than 30 years," said Steven Cost, president, Hexagon's Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial division.

Hexagon serves customers in the APAC region across a multitude of industries, with the Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial division supporting critical services – from public safety to utilities to government, transportation and beyond. The division's extensive list of customers includes the Australian Federal Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, Endeavor Energy and Chiyoda Corporation.

Tidebrink brings extensive experience in sales and services in public safety and security throughout the APAC region. For the past 15 years, he has been with Motorola Solutions, most recently serving as vice president of APAC sales for video security and AI. He holds a master's degree in computer science.

“Hexagon has long been known as a global leader in technology solutions that make our world a better, more sustainable place,” Tidebrink said. “It is an honor to be entrusted to not only uphold this legacy, but to make it even stronger in the future.”

Tidebrink assumed the role of senior vice president, APAC, on July 17. He will be based in Australia and report directly to division president Steven Cost.

iBase-t Appoints Cheri Williams as Chief Customer Officer

10 August 2023

iBase-t, the company that simplifies how complex products are built and maintained, today announced it has strengthened its leadership by appointing Cheri Williams as Chief Customer Officer. In this role, Williams will lead iBase-t’s efforts to meet and exceed customer expectations, while helping the executive leadership team drive the company’s strategic direction forward as the manufacturing industry accelerates the deployment of digital transformation solutions. The position was most recently held by current Chief Operations Officer at iBase-t, Scott Barril.

“iBase-t has both a leading technology in Solumina, as well as an esteemed and growing customer base. It’s an honor to work on behalf of the company and deliver solutions to our customers that enable them to digitally transform their operations,” said Williams. “It’s clear that manufacturers need solutions and partners that can easily and efficiently deliver high-value digital solutions. I’m excited to be participating in iBase-t’s next level of growth while helping our customers fulfill their ambitious goals.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Cheri to the executive team at iBase-t. Our clients expect the very best in customer experience and we are fully invested in delivering on that promise,” said Naveen Poonian, President & CEO iBase-t “By adding such a wealth of knowledge and experience to iBase-t, Cheri will be an outstanding addition to the company, helping to ensure customers’ expectations are met throughout their digital transformation with Solumina.”

Williams most recently served as Chief Executive Officer at DELMIAWorks (formerly IQMS), a division of Dassault Systemes, that is a global ERP/MES solution for mid-market manufacturers. Williams also served as DELMIAWorks’ Chief Revenue Officer, where she was responsible for managing all revenue lines, and helped transition to a global go-to-market strategy, building partnerships and teams worldwide. Previously, Williams built a worldwide Professional Services organization to help successfully support the customers’ implementations, training and go lives on the ERP/MES solution. Williams’ time at DelmiaWorks earned her recognition on Software Magazine’s Top 25 Women Leaders in Software in Europe in 2021.

Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Commence the Second Edition of their Cultural Festivals Across India

9 August 2023

The week-long celebrations will benefit over 3,000 artists across eight cities

[Infosys Foundation](#), the philanthropic and CSR arm of [Infosys](#), today announced the commencement of the second edition of its cultural festivals across eight cities in the country, in association with [Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan](#), to promote India's visual and performing arts. Notably, this year marks 25 years of collaboration between the two organizations both of whom share a common vision and mission to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India.

Aimed at preserving traditional folk and classical art forms, the second edition of the cultural festivals aim to provide a platform to over 3,000 artists from various communities to showcase their talent. The cultural festivals this year will include sculptor's camps, musical events, storytelling workshops, history camps, dance, art, and poetry.

The first cultural festival will be hosted in Chandigarh for a week commencing on October 16th, 2023, and will subsequently be organized in Jaipur, Bengaluru, Pune, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kolkata, in a bid to strengthen, unify, and support the indigenous folk-art communities. The objective of this collaboration is to provide a platform for underprivileged artists and their communities and helping preserve traditional folk and classical art forms.

Sunil Kumar Dhareshwar, Trustee, Infosys Foundation, said, "Promoting art, culture and our heritage has been a valued area of work at Infosys Foundation. We are proud of this engagement through which the talent of different artists has been able to get a platform and acknowledgement. This collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, is one of our marquee efforts to preserve the cultural fabric of our country for future generations."

H.N. Suresh, Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru Kendra, said, "I want to convey my heartfelt gratitude to Infosys Foundation for their enduring support in nurturing arts and budding artists from across the country. Through this association, we have successfully been able to showcase their talent and preserve traditional folk and classical art forms in India."

Infosys launches new sonic identity to reinforce its brand purpose

10 August 2023

[Infosys](#), a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, today unveiled its sonic brand identity, the auditory equivalent of its blue visual identity and logo. As a strategic brand asset, the signature Infosys tune will serve to reinforce the company's core identity and brand purpose – 'to amplify human potential and create the next opportunity for people, businesses and communities', when stakeholders interact with the brand. The unique melody, the sonic landscape will be integrated across Infosys' many platforms used by employees, and across brand assets, ranging from videos to signature events that the company's clients and the broader community engage with.

"As more of our stakeholders interact with brands through digital channels, and more brands continue to crowd digital spaces, the Infosys tune will serve as an auditory reinforcement of our unique brand identity. It will also help deepen the emotional connection our stakeholders have with Infosys by cueing in the promise of opportunity creation that is integral to our brand purpose," said **Sumit Virmani, EVP and Global Chief Marketing Officer, Infosys**. "We aspire for

the sound of Infosys to signal and be recognized as the sound of opportunity for all our stakeholders, across markets,” he added.

As a means to mark the debut of their sonic identity, Infosys activated a digital metaphor to demonstrate how the sound of Infosys can signal the sound of opportunity. The company has extended an invitation to all its stakeholders to unlock opportunities by engaging with its sonic brand [here](#). Response, from the audience, will trigger transformative digital learning experiences for underprivileged students and graduate jobseekers in India.

For over 4 decades, brand Infosys has sought to truly live its purpose. Infosys has been recognized in BrandZ's prestigious Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands list, ranked at #66. Infosys is also ranked among the top three most valuable IT services brands globally by Brand Finance, with a growth of 84 per cent in its brand value since 2020, as per Brand Finance Global 500 2023 report.

Oracle Strengthens Australia's Digital Economy with a New Government Cloud

8 August 2023

Supporting the Public Sector with Security and Data Sovereignty

Oracle has decades of experience securing data and applications and with its security-first approach, customers have access to capabilities across a broad array of services that make highly secure implementations easy, cost effective, and fully integrated. Oracle Cloud for Australian Government and Defense enables customers to deploy applications that adhere to Australian data sovereignty and residency regulations for locally hosted sensitive data.

“Digital sovereignty has been a growing issue, with governments increased needs for control over their data, infrastructure, resources, and software. Increasingly, governments are engaging and partnering with trusted cloud partners to stay abreast of their challenges in this journey,” said Daphne Chung, research director of cloud services and software, IDC Asia/Pacific. “Despite economic uncertainties, IDC forecasts Australia public cloud services to grow at a five-year CAGR of 19.2 percent to become a US\$19.2 billion market in 2026.”

For additional protection, Oracle Cloud for Australian Government and Defense is restricted to public sector organizations and their partners. Oracle is currently the only hyperscale cloud provider to operate physically separate cloud regions for governments outside the U.S., with eight government regions across the U.S., U.K., and Australia, in addition to multiple air-gapped isolated regions for the U.S. government.

“Building on our experience with sovereign government regions in the U.S. and the U.K., Oracle is providing the Australian government with cloud infrastructure that has the same services and consistent global pricing as our public cloud regions. Why should governments have to pay more and get less?” said Rand Waldron, vice president, global government sector, Oracle. “This region, restricted to the government community, will make it easier for Australia to bring its most important systems to the cloud and take advantage of the unique efficiency, support, and capability that Oracle offers to drive their mission success.”

Customers and Partners Embrace Oracle Cloud

OCI supports private and public sector organizations globally by offering a wide range of distributed cloud deployment options beyond public cloud regions, including Dedicated Region and Exadata Cloud@Customer, which can assist with applications where data proximity and low-latency in specific locations are of critical importance.

“This is a major announcement that has great significance in supporting cloud adoption within the public sector and helping clients further leverage Oracle's cloud technology,” said Robert Loughnane, ANZ Partner, Deloitte. “We believe that this announcement and our strong alliance with Oracle will further support our customers’ digital needs and reinforce our position as a market leader in mission-critical systems management and transformation services.”

“We welcome the addition of Oracle Cloud for Australian Government and Defense, as the initiative removes barriers to the adoption of cloud services by public sector agencies,” said Dean Langenbach, chief executive officer, Nomura Research Institute (NRI) Australia and New Zealand. “With this new offering, government agencies will have more access to high-quality and secure solutions, allowing public sector organizations to take full advantage of the benefits of the cloud without compromising the integrity and confidentiality of information.”

“This is a huge announcement for government customers and will help support public sector cloud adoption,” said Michael Reid, chief executive officer, Megaport. “We’re excited to enable connectivity to the new Oracle Cloud for Australian Government and Defense, helping our customers get more out of the cloud and underscoring our position as a cloud interconnection leader.”

Stratasys DentaJet Series Building Momentum With Dental Labs Globally

7 August 2023

Stratasys Ltd., a leader in polymer 3D printing solutions, today said it is winning over more dental labs to its professional-grade DentaJet® series of multi-material 3D printers by delivering increased quality and higher accuracy to dental applications while improving overall production efficiencies. Stratasys introduced its entry-level [J3™ DentaJet 3D printer](#) earlier this year to complement its more advanced J5™ DentaJet model.

The J3 DentaJet 3D printer allows dental labs like ADT to reduce project time from days to a single day and reduce unnecessary overtime. (Photo: Business Wire)

Advanced Dental Technologies, a full-service lab based in Boston, recently purchased the new J3 DentaJet printer and has been using it to produce crown and bridge, removable, and implant models.

“We’re really thrilled with the J3’s output quality, and the ability to undertake multi-material printing has made our workflow so much easier and faster,” said owner Dany Karam. “We own several 3D printers, but this is by far the team’s favorite. We were able to streamline and simplify the process from multiple prints every day to a more streamlined, efficient workflow and environment in the lab, helping us reduce cost by eliminating unnecessary overtime. What would have previously taken three days, we can now do in a day, with greater accuracy and at a fraction of the cost.”

Leveraging Stratasys' smart digital workflow, the cost-effective DentaJet 3D printers address the evolving production needs of dental labs by enabling unattended printing and minimal post-processing. This helps to overcome the ongoing industry-wide challenge of skilled-labor shortage by enabling labs to redistribute resources. Stratasys is providing a tailored solution for each dental application and its unique requirements, such as high accuracy, color realism, or durability. Users can create extremely accurate, high-quality models, surgical guides and soft gingiva masks – each comprising multiple materials – in a single tray simultaneously.

Ident'M, a dental lab in France, recently purchased a J5 DentaJet printer, which now runs 20 hours a day to create about 1,000 dental parts each month. Alongside other requirements, the dental parts need to be incredibly precise, with the Stratasys system meeting that need with accuracy to just 18 microns.

Olivier Mangot, Co-director, Ident'M, said, "This 3D printer's precision is simply unachievable with any other technology today. Thanks to the level of accuracy, we have reduced chair time for patients for applications such as crown fittings which has led to very positive feedback from our customers. We've also been able to save time and improve productivity by producing full-color dental models on one J5 printer instead of three legacy 3D printers that were dedicated to three different applications."

Germany-based dental lab MA CAD/CAM Service UG has also just purchased a J5 DentaJet printer. Owner Michael Anger reinforced the value of precision, along with quality aesthetics and productivity. "Being able to print different materials and colors in one single print job, combined with minimal post-processing, has resulted in huge cost savings for us," he said. "We're now also able to present models to patients that are more aesthetically appealing as the printer can reproduce the colors from the oral scan."

The DentaJet series powered by PolyJet™ technology is unlocking new applications such as monolithic full-color dentures with Stratasys' TrueDent™ solution, which the company announced for the U.S. market earlier this year. Ronen Lebi, Vice President of Dental at Stratasys, said, "DentaJet printers are proving ideal for dental applications, given the complex geometries and variety of materials required. With its robust catalog of strengths spanning unrivalled accuracy to superior color realism, the technology not only unlocks important advantages across various applications, but crucially provides a versatility that is critical in any modern, competitive and fast-paced dental environment. We've paired these printers with a seamless digital workflow that ensures dental labs quickly see the business benefits while better serving their own customers; that's why we're seeing such rapid adoption around the world."

Synopsys Appoints Rob Painter to Board of Directors

9 August 2023

Synopsys, Inc. announced the appointment of Rob Painter to its board of directors. Painter currently serves as president and chief executive officer at Trimble, a global technology company focused on transforming work for industries spanning agriculture, construction, geospatial and transportation.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rob to our Synopsys board of directors," said Aart de Geus, chair and CEO of Synopsys. "Rob is a visionary leader whose expertise in driving innovation and leading transformational growth by digitalization across the technology landscape will further accelerate our mission to help catalyze 'smart everything' solutions for the world. We already have an outstanding board and Rob's intellect and broad experience of practical while complex technology applications will fit right in."

Painter was named president and CEO of Trimble in 2020 after 14 years with the company serving in executive operational and financial roles, including as chief financial officer from 2016 to 2019. During his tenure, Trimble's revenue significantly expanded from \$940 million to \$3.67 billion as the company successfully executed its strategy of connecting and digitizing work across industries such as construction, agriculture and transportation. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance from West Virginia University and an MBA from Harvard University.

"It's an honor to join the board of Synopsys," said Painter. "The world continues to digitize, AI is here, and I believe Synopsys is the right company, in the right space, at the right time. I look forward to partnering with the Board and the leadership team as Synopsys continues to advance and deliver an unmatched product portfolio to enable a new 'smart everything' era."

TCS and Marks & Spencer Win the Retail Partnership of the Year Award

8 August 2023

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Marks & Spencer (M&S) have won the Retail Partnership of the Year award at the Retail Systems Awards, for the loyalty platform co-created by both the partners.

The Retail Systems Awards celebrate excellence in the retail sector with a strong focus on technology innovation. TCS and M&S were recognised for their collaboration to build an in-house loyalty platform using the latest technology stack, an engineering-driven approach, and a cloud-first strategy to enhance customer experience. TCS and M&S created a modern, scalable, headless, microservice, and event-based architecture that meets current and future business requirements. The new solution is performant, data-driven, and capable of supporting major marketing campaigns and business events.

The new loyalty platform enables M&S to innovate and redefine its loyalty proposition with shorter time to market. The engineering-first approach adopted in its design gives the platform tremendous scalability, enabling M&S to target customers at scale and run massive campaigns with zero impact on retail operations during the peak seasons.

The loyalty platform supported '12 days of Sparks', one of the biggest campaigns in M&S' history, achieving throughput of more than one million emails per hour and 500,000 mobile push notifications an hour, without performance or availability issues. The outcomes were equally spectacular. The campaign drove half a million new loyalty program members and over one million app downloads during that period. This resulted in a significant increase in offer activations and redemptions.

“By re-platforming our loyalty services and bringing them in house we have been able to deliver greater stability and improved customer experience allowing us to land key campaigns seamlessly. With a phased approach and outstanding overall delivery, TCS ensured we didn’t create any adverse customer impact. We have seen some fantastic examples of teamwork and individuals going the extra mile. I am really proud of what TCS and M&S have delivered to enhance our customer experience and system capability,” said Danielle Papagapiou, Head of Loyalty, M&S.

“The loyalty platform that we have built together with M&S demonstrates our commitment to customer-centricity and innovation in the retail industry. It enables M&S to offer its customers unique and personalised experiences, enhancing a deeply personalised omnichannel customer experience through faster innovation and experimentation,” said Abhijit Niyogi, Business Head, Retail, Tata Consultancy Services.

TCS Launches Seniors Lab, an Innovative Care Delivery Programme to Empower Singapore’s Silver Generation

9 August 2023

Tata Consultancy Services’ Pilot Programme Uses IoT Technology to Help Seniors of Sree Narayana Mission Singapore Lead Safer, More Comfortable, and Independent Life

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has launched Seniors Lab, a pilot digital programme for integrated senior care, in partnership with Sree Narayana Mission (SNM), Singapore, to help seniors live and age with confidence.

Seniors Lab seeks to enhance the well-being and inclusivity of Singapore’s ageing population by innovating care delivery systems. Designed to address challenges in rising healthcare costs, the programme leverages Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to create an integrated care delivery system that will lower the cost of care delivery, while helping seniors of SNM lead safer, more comfortable, and independent lives.

By integrating IoT-enabled sensors installed in the seniors’ homes, Seniors Lab digitally detects and reports movement, activity levels, falls, social isolation indicators and other medically relevant parameters, while ensuring privacy. These sensors can be integrated with wearables and devices, as well as healthcare ecosystems and concierge service providers, to further ensure a holistic approach to senior care.

The Seniors Lab programme builds on the success of the SHINESeniors programme, a research initiative of the SMU-TCS iCity Lab, a joint venture between Singapore Management University (SMU) and TCS. The new programme has introduced a range of new and extended features, including emergency linkages and concierge services, such as ambulance services and companions, attendants, shopping and groceries, and bill payments. It also allows for the tracking of medically relevant parameters, adding another dimension to comprehensive senior care, enabling them to live more independently.

K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, commented: “Singapore’s resident population is ageing rapidly. In 2022, our residents aged 65 years and above made up

16.6 percent of the total resident population, which makes Singapore one of the most rapidly ageing societies in Asia. Our environment must evolve to adapt to the growing needs of our elderly.

“I am glad and welcome more of similar corporate-charity collaborations like TCS and SNM for Seniors Lab, to raise greater awareness and provide creative living solutions for our seniors to remain active, healthy and live life with purpose and dignity, and for society to benefit from their collective wisdom and experience.”

Ameet Nivsarkar, Country Head, TCS Singapore, said, “We believe in creating a future where every individual, regardless of age, can feel confident and empowered in their everyday lives. Our partnership with SNM and the launch of our pilot programme builds on this belief, as we look to address the underserved needs of the silver generation. Losing a sense of autonomy and loneliness at an old age can be a very difficult experience for many. At TCS, we aim to address these very real issues through innovative digital solutions that connect these seniors more meaningfully with their communities. We hope the launch of Seniors Lab will help to drive inclusivity and social interaction in Singapore, where seniors can thrive and age with confidence.”

S Devendran, CEO, SNM Singapore, said, “We strive to create a healthier ageing landscape by leveraging technology to empower our seniors in ageing independently, which complements the Healthier SG initiative. With TCS onboard as our technology partner, we hope to achieve this through ‘Living with Confidence’, a sensor based IoT technology and data analytics, which allows remote monitoring and timely alerts through a mobile application. Our seniors can take comfort in knowing that they are not alone and get to age in place confidently. This creates a safe and healthy ageing landscape for seniors of today and tomorrow.”

The Seniors Lab promotes active engagement and participation among seniors, enabling them to shape their ageing journey with dignity and fulfilment. These initiatives are offered through partnerships with Non-Profit Organisations and healthcare providers, with the collective aim of enabling seniors to thrive as active and engaged members of their communities.

As part of its commitment to continue providing innovative solutions to create a more inclusive future for all, TCS aims to extend the Seniors Lab programme to other parts of the world.

Event News

Autodesk welcomes worldbuilders and visionaries to explore the future of Design & Make at SIGGRAPH

9 August 2023

Autodesk is going big at this year’s SIGGRAPH conference to honor the 50-year anniversary of the world’s most impactful gathering of animation, visual effects, and computer graphics professionals in media and entertainment.

From industry-wide efforts to drive adoption of open-source standards to empowering artist creativity with generative AI, our vision for the future is squarely in the spotlight at SIGGRAPH. We invite attendees to explore how Autodesk solutions enable a cloud connected future for creative teams at the Autodesk Vision Series, and traverse the past, present, and future of computer graphics in a spectacular new exhibition, *The Time Tunnel*.

Collaboration breeds innovation

To make our vision for a cloud-driven future a reality, we're partnering with industry leaders to enable greater interoperability between 3D tools and data. We're coming to SIGGRAPH on the heels of joining Pixar, Adobe, Apple, and NVIDIA as inaugural members of the [Alliance for OpenUSD \(AOUSD\)](#), launched by the Joint Development Foundation, an affiliate of The Linux Foundation. We're proud to be part of this industry-wide effort to make it easier for artists to collaborate more effectively across projects, tools, and teams.

We're also collaborating with Adobe on a new source shading model called OpenPBR (which stands for Open Physically-Based Rendering), a new subproject of MaterialX, that will be a successor to [Autodesk Standard Surface](#) and the [Adobe Standard Material](#). This open-source specification is under the governance of the Academy Software Foundation (ASWF). OpenPBR builds upon [MaterialX](#) by providing a description of how an artist will interface with the physical properties of the surface they're creating, giving artists a more specific interface to work within, and the ability to transfer data back and forth between assets with very little conversion needed.

Doubling down on generative AI

To help media and entertainment professionals address the challenges presented by today's dynamic production environment – from tight deadlines to growing project complexity and audience expectations – we're also exploring the power of AI to speed up and augment artist workflows.

The first of those efforts is with NVIDIA. We're integrating generative AI services developed using NVIDIA Picasso, a foundry for building generative AI models, into Maya. As a first step, we'll work toward responsibly and ethically integrating AI into 3D content creation for characters and worlds. The ability to dynamically generate textures, materials and high dynamic range images directly into LookdevX in Maya will enable dramatically faster look development and scene lighting workflows.

In a similar vein, we're also excited to share that we're teaming up with Wonder Dynamics to empower artists to harness the power of AI for character-driven visual effects workflows. The first of these workflows will be an integration between Maya and Wonder Studio.

Time Tunnel unveiled

We're thrilled to partner with SIGGRAPH on a new interactive and immersive Time Tunnel exhibition in the Concourse Foyer of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Time Tunnel traverses history, highlighting innovation and achievement in the field of computer graphics over the past 50 years. The walls of the LED-lined tunnel give viewers a

glimpse of major technical milestones and iconic cinematic moments that represent major industry progress.

The exhibit also looks ahead to the future of Design and Make, incorporating stories of companies across architecture, engineering, construction, product design, manufacturing, media, and entertainment, using Autodesk software to push the boundaries of what's possible today. Stories featured in this space include [Coral Maker](#), [Notre Dame](#), and [Untold Studios](#).

Autodesk offers industry outlook in Vision Series

Autodesk's Vision Series is a hallmark of our SIGGRAPH participation, offering two days of presentations from the brightest minds in visual effects and animation including Untold Studios, Weta FX, Rising Sun Pictures, EVR Studio, and Ignite Animation Studios. The Vision Series will also feature Autodesk-led panel discussions on the role of AI in media and entertainment, how OpenUSD will evolve under the helm of AOUSD, and cloud-powered collaborative workflows.

Don't miss these sessions:

- "Exploring the Transformative Power of AI in Media & Entertainment" featuring FXGuide's Mike Seymour, Wonder Dynamics' Nikola Todorovic, Flawless' Jen Hollingsworth, and Rising Sun Pictures' Phil Berrenger
- "An Industry Connected: The Path to Interoperability in VFX with OpenUSD" with Autodesk's Eric Bourque, Pixar's David Ryu, NVIDIA's Rev Lebaredian, and Adobe's Guido Quaroni
- "At the End of the Time Tunnel: Shaping the Future of Media and Entertainment" with Autodesk's Leona Frank, Ben Fischler, and Jeff Bell providing a glimpse into a future where open standards, cloud-based workflows, and platform-based production pipelines are the norm

European Premiere of SprutCAM X 17 and SprutCAM X Robot 17 at EMO 2023 Trade Fair

11 August 2023

The EMO exhibition is back after a 4-year break and will be held in Hannover, Germany from September 18 to 23, 2023.

The highly anticipated European premiere of the 17th version of SprutCAM X, a CAD/CAM system, and SprutCAM X Robot, an offline robot programming (OLP) software, will captivate visitors at EMO 2023, the world's leading trade fair for manufacturing technology.

SprutCAM Tech invites industry professionals, enthusiasts and the press to experience the latest innovations firsthand at booth E06 in hall 9.

The new features will be demonstrated live: The showcase promises to be an immersive exploration of the [new features and capabilities](#) that SprutCAM X 17 and SprutCAM X Robot 17 bring to the world of CAD/CAM systems.

Advanced AI Assistant Ency: SprutCAM Tech is proud to present Ency, an AI assistant that represents a breakthrough in CAM software. Visitors will be able to experience the power of AI-driven assistance that enhances the precision, efficiency and ease of CNC operations.

Virtual Reality Solution: A remarkable addition to the SprutCAM X experience is a virtual reality solution. Using a VR headset, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the control of robotic operations, providing a glimpse into the future of CNC technology.

Meet the experts: The SprutCAM Tech team has worked tirelessly to bring these features to life, with the goal of revolutionizing the CNC industry and providing users with new levels of control and productivity. The SprutCAM Tech distribution network has already seen the [presentation of the new version](#) at the SprutCAM X World conference in June 2023. Employees of partner companies around the world are now actively preparing to start of delivery, implementation and support of SprutCAM X 17 and SprutCAM X Robot 17. Visitors will have the privilege to interact with representatives of SprutCAM Tech and [Datentechnik Reitz GmbH & Co](#), the German distributor of SprutCAM Tech. These experts will be available at the booth to answer questions, offer demonstrations, and provide in-depth explanations of the innovations on display. Their expertise will ensure that visitors get a firsthand insight into the capabilities and benefits of SprutCAM X 17.

Mastercam and InterCAM Showcase Latest CAD/CAM Software at EMO 2023

10 August 2023

Mastercam is traveling to Hannover to support esteemed German Mastercam Reseller InterCAM at the EMO show, which is the world's leading fair for production technology. EMO attendees will get to experience the most powerful Mastercam machining software yet. Stop by Hall 9, Booth E16 at the Hannover Messe in Hannover, Germany, September 18-23, for a look at Mastercam 2024 which introduces dozens of features and enhancement to keep shops running with the latest that Mastercam has to offer the manufacturing industry.

Mill-Turn Additions. Users can now use turret-mounted angled milling heads in Mill-Turn operations, allowing you to create toolpaths on angled planes using turret-mounted tools which results in enhanced productivity and ease of use for both milling and turning operations. B-Axis Contour Turning also sees three major enhancements—the ability to manually edit tool axis vectors, manually edit usable insert area, and adjust stock function— which allows for more in-process control and understanding of the motion of the B-axis head from within the toolpath interface.

Process Hole and Holemaking. The Process Hole toolpath applies previously defined processes to a part's solid hole features, which consists of one or more holemaking operations' built-in functions library. The ability to import applicable processes into the working part file saves time and money while maintaining consistency with your processes. A displayed graphical elements button has been added to the holemaking and multiaxis toolpath dialog boxes, permitting you to show or hide graphical elements depending on the toolpath type. This allows for more customized control on a hole-by-hole basis or across the entire holemaking toolpath.

Milling Features. The Dynamic Mill, Face, and Dynamic OptiRough toolpaths now include a new Maximize Engagement option, producing more nominal chips, minimizing the number of small chips, and helping prevent problematic stand-alone material slivers. Waterline toolpaths are now aware of undercut stock conditions resulting in improvement to the toolpath motion and less air cutting.

General System Features and Updates. Mastercam's traditional on-screen gnomon has been augmented with the new Gview cube which is a more graphical way to show plane orientation and its interactive features allow users to control the cube and on-screen representation of the part. Machine Group Setup Stock has three new easier, more intuitive selection methods including Add from two corner, Add rectangular stock, and Add cylindrical stock. The Save/Load Toolpath Defaults List enhancement allows a user to specify individual files and operations to load from/save to. The ability to quickly switch between different default sets for different toolpath goals or transfer operational data from file to file delivers time savings, an enhanced user experience, and improved functionality.

These are only a few of the new features and enhancements coming to Mastercam 2024. For more information on Mastercam 2024, please visit <https://www.mastercam.com/mastercam-2024/> or <https://whatsnew.mastercam.com>.

Financial News

FARO Reports Inducement Grant Under Nasdaq Listing Rules

7 August 2023

FARO Technologies, Inc.®, a global leader in 3D measurement, imaging, and realization solutions for the 3D Metrology, AEC (Architecture, Engineering & Construction), and Public Safety Analytics markets, today announced, as required by Nasdaq Stock Market Rules, an equity inducement award to Peter J. Lau, the Company's new President and Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4), on August 2, 2023, upon the recommendation of our Talent Development and Compensation Committee, FARO's Board of Directors granted, in the aggregate, 434,837 restricted stock units, or RSUs, to Peter J. Lau as a material inducement to him entering into employment with FARO. The grant is awarded as a combination of time vesting RSUs and performance RSUs in a ratio of 40% and 60%, respectively. One-third of the time-vesting RSUs will vest on each of the first, second, and third anniversaries of the July 24, 2023 start date, subject to continued service through each applicable date. 100% of the performance RSUs will vest on the third anniversary of the start date, subject to continued service, if FARO meets the predetermined performance criteria. The performance RSUs are granted at 200% of the target amount should FARO exceed the target performance criteria.

The inducement RSU awards were made outside of FARO's current stockholder-approved equity plan, the 2022 Equity Incentive Plan, and were made pursuant to stand-alone

inducement grant award agreements. The terms and conditions of these agreements are generally consistent with those under the 2022 Equity Incentive Plan.

Implementation Investments

Aster Textiles Digitizes Production Planning with FastReactPlan

11 August 2023

One of the world's most diverse textile and ready-made garment manufactures, [Aster Textiles](#), has selected [Coats Digital's](#) FastReactPlan solution to digitally transform its manual planning processes by connecting more accurate planning and forecasting data across departments, in a bid to [improve efficiencies, optimise its On-Time Delivery Performance \(OTDP\) and significantly reduce lead times](#). Aster Textiles was founded as a family business in 1993, in Istanbul, Turkey and has grown rapidly to become one of Turkey's top 10 exporters of textile and ready-made garments. Still headquartered in Istanbul, Aster operates four large, state-of-the-art production facilities in Turkey and Serbia which manufacture a wide range of knit and woven fabric clothing for women, men and children, in addition to a leading line of sportswear – to nearly 30 global customer brands across ten countries around the globe.

Aster boasts an annual turnover in excess of 100 Million USD and employs over 2,000 staff. All its factories hold Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), and Organic 100 Content Standard (OCS) production certificates.

“Aster Textiles utilises a LEAN production system in every phase of production to maximise productivity. We place great importance on automation across all our factory operations and aim to continuously improve our production system infrastructure in line with the best technological advancements available. On top of Coats Digital's renowned expertise, FastReactPlan simply offered the most optimum scheduling management tool on the market and we expect that this proven technology will ultimately enable us to balance production processes more efficiently and significantly improve our delivery performance so that we have much more time available to focus on other areas of our business growth.” **Zumrut GUNGOR, Process Development Director, Aster Textiles**

Olcay BILGIC, Production Planning Director, Aster Textiles, said: “As the volume and distribution of orders increased, it became difficult to control a total of nearly 100 production lines in different locations. Considering the wide variety of models and flexible working arrangements, it was very important to control the capacity, efficiency and OTIF (on time in full) instantly with real-time data. Based on these searches, we decided to move forward with FRP, which offered us the best solution.”

Part of Coats Digital's core Manufacturing Solution Suite, [FastReactPlan](#) is a dynamic, visual production planning and control tool that optimizes delivery, efficiency and lead times. Designed and developed specifically for apparel and footwear manufacturers, it helps companies [integrate capacity, critical path and materials into an integrated planning system](#).

Ibrahim Halil HACIKAMILOGLU, Solutions Consulting Manager, CoatsDigital, commented: “We are delighted that Aster Textiles has joined our growing global family of increasingly digitized fashion manufacturing partners. Aster has been fully committed to introducing innovative solutions and advanced industry automation throughout its state-of-the-art production facilities wherever possible, and we are honoured to be helping the company progress its digitization programme. FastReactPlan will provide greater visibility and one version of the truth for all capacity planning, so that relevant departments can communicate easily to optimise efficiencies and eradicate problems quickly. We look forward to working with Aster to ensure it remains one of the leaders in best practice garment manufacturing across the globe.”

EFL Global Sets Sail with Infor Nexus™

11 August 2023

Infor Nexus™, the leading global supply chain platform and a division of Infor®, the industry cloud company, today announced that [EFL Global](#) will implement the Infor Nexus platform and join its logistics service provider (LSP) community. EFL Global, an international logistics and supply chain industry leader, will leverage the machine learning and predictive analytic capabilities of the Nexus platform to enhance its supply chain operations and better serve its clients.

Infor Nexus, a single-instance multi-enterprise business network platform, optimizes the flow of goods, information, and capital from source to delivery and payment. It empowers businesses to boost their overall supply chain performance, improve on-time delivery and customer service, reduce costs, free up working capital, and enhance partner relationships.

With the integration of the Infor Nexus platform, EFL Global will gain a greater level of visibility, insight, and collaboration throughout its entire supply chain. Real-time signals, precise ETAs, and community data on the network will enable EFL Global to provide accurate container event data, anticipate industry disruptions, and reduce costs for its clients. The company also will benefit from the broader ecosystem and can leverage Infor Nexus' 20 years of global network data, applying machine learning and artificial intelligence into predictive modeling.

“As EFL Global continues to grow its portfolio of services, we are excited to expand our order management services and capabilities with the Infor Nexus network,” said Erika Babcock, senior director – order management, EFL Global. “With this network, EFL Global can offer clients a full range of services, enabling a complete end-to-end supply chain solution. The Infor Nexus network enables our clients to have full visibility of their supply chains so they can optimize lead times, obtain visibility to industry disruptions, and reduce costs.”

By leveraging the Infor Nexus platform, EFL Global can provide a combination of status updates (milestones) from carriers and partners, along with live GPS location data to give a complete view of where a shipment is, where it’s going, and when it will get there. Its clients will also benefit from community data on the network that can alert them to events such as port delays, bad weather, labor issues, and all other issues that could impact their shipments.

“Through the use of predictive analytics, EFL Global can generate and provide accurate container event data along with precise ETAs, all via real-time updates,” Babcock noted.

“Dashboards and reporting will enable clients to have up-to-date information and manage by exception, while at the same time provide them end-to-end visibility of their supply chain.”

“Having a connected supply chain, the end-to-end visibility and the insights has never been more critical,” said Heidi Benko, vice president of product marketing and strategy, Infor Nexus. “We are very excited to have EFL Global join our LSP community so they can provide their clients with intelligent insights to run a smarter supply chain and improve the overall client experience.”

Halo Fetches NetSuite to Help Save More Dogs’ Lives

10 August 2023

Halo, an advanced GPS wireless dog fence that is used by over 150,000 dogs, has selected [Oracle NetSuite](#) to help it build a better world for every dog. With NetSuite, Halo will be able to take advantage of an integrated business suite to enhance and scale its operations as it expands globally.

Launched in 2019, Halo uses advanced GPS tracking and activity monitoring to help pet owners ensure their dog’s safety. Halo replaces the need for an invisible dog fence since its containment function is held directly in the collar and doesn’t need Internet access to operate. Co-founded by world renowned dog behaviorist, Cesar Millan, Halo incorporates Millan’s expertise in dog psychology to deliver built-in training technology that gently teaches dogs. Pet owners can establish virtual boundaries in the app, and GPS functionality helps keep dogs protected and easy to locate wherever they may go. To meet increasing demand and support its domestic and international expansion, Halo needed to streamline its operations, improve the efficiency and accuracy of its financial processes, and establish a single view into its data to enable faster and more informed decision making. After careful evaluation, Halo selected NetSuite to address these challenges and provide an [enterprise resource planning \(ERP\) system](#) that will help it save more dogs’ lives.

“As pet ownership surged during the pandemic, our revenue grew from \$3 million in 2020 to \$50 million in 2022. To support that growth and continue to scale our business, we needed to rethink the business systems that we rely on every day and find a way to eliminate the cost and complexities of working with so many different solutions,” said Ned Mavrommatis, chief financial officer, Halo. “That’s why we selected NetSuite. With NetSuite, we get one system that will be able to integrate our data and streamline our business processes as we expand our go-to-market activities from direct to consumer to selling through distributors and retailers, both domestically and internationally.”

With NetSuite, Halo will be able to streamline and enhance key processes while managing its operations on a single cloud business suite. By automating its procurement, inventory, and subscription management functions, NetSuite will help Halo increase recurring, predictable revenue generators and improve its gross margin. NetSuite will also allow Halo to significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to close its books and provide real-time insights into its financial performance, enabling its leadership team to make faster decisions and take advantage of growth opportunities. In addition, by unifying data on a single system, NetSuite

will help Halo conduct faster and more meaningful analysis and reduce the risk associated with inaccurate or missing data.

“Halo has brought together a team of technology and dog experts to develop an innovative system that helps pet owners keep their dogs safely off leash no matter where they are,” said Sam Levy, senior vice president of sales, Oracle NetSuite. “Demand for the Halo system has skyrocketed over recent years and by moving to NetSuite, Halo will be able to efficiently meet this demand by enhancing and streamlining its operations with a unified suite. As a result, the Halo team can continue to scale and stay focused on its mission as it expands into new markets.”

Lishen Battery selects Siemens Xcelerator to scale sustainable battery production

9 August 2023

Siemens Digital Industries Software announced the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement with Tianjin Lishen Battery Joint-Stock Co., Ltd. (Lishen Battery), a leading high-tech company specializing in the research, development and production of lithium-ion batteries. The agreement signifies a pivotal milestone in Lishen Battery's digital transformation journey, with both Siemens Digital Industries Software and Lishen Battery fully dedicated to advancing the evolution of the global battery industry.

“Lishen Battery is firmly dedicated to delivering comprehensive power solutions to customers. The strategic collaboration with Siemens will harness the potential of digitalization to revolutionize the company's management system and drive our pursuit of high-quality development,” said Tong Laiming, Secretary of the Party Committee and Chairman of Board, Lishen Battery.

As part of the collaboration, Lishen Battery will leverage Opcenter™ software from the Siemens Xcelerator portfolio of industry software, to establish a technology center for Lishen. The dedicated facility will be equipped with advanced capabilities for full data traceability and connectivity throughout product research and development as well as the manufacturing process.

"The key to improving the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry lies in the deep integration with digital technology, so we are honored that Lishen Battery has selected Siemens Xcelerator," said Leo Liang, Senior Vice President and Managing Director for Greater China, Siemens Digital Industries Software, “Siemens remains committed to our aspiration to foster a collaboration with Lishen Battery that fully leverage Siemens' expertise and commitment to continuous innovation and comprehensive solutions - ranging from product design, testing and simulation, to production - to contribute to the rapid development of the global battery industry."

Learn more about how Siemens offers a full suite of battery software solutions and factory automation that assists customers to design and produce batteries sustainably and efficiently, build and launch gigafactories in record time and scale production rapidly by combining the real and digital worlds by visiting the Battery solutions website: www.siemens.com/battery

Salam Collaborates with Oracle to Accelerate Digital Transformation

10 August 2023

[Salam](#) (previously known as Integrated Telecom Company) has selected Oracle to drive 5G innovation across the Middle East.

Recently recognized as Saudi Arabia's fastest growing and most innovative telecom brand, and part of the Mawarid Media & Communications Group ([MMCG](#)) and Mawarid Holding Company, Salam will utilize Oracle Communications' monetization and unified operations solutions to help quickly deliver differentiated services to its consumer and enterprise customers.

"Salam aims to provide customer-centric offers that help create a digital society in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 digital transformation plans," said Ahmed Al-Anqari, CEO, Salam. "With Oracle, we have a future-ready digital strategy to accelerate our time to market for 5G and other digital services. With a modular pre-integrated stack, we avoid the costly and time-consuming process of complex integrations and high level of customizations. This means we can launch, orchestrate, and monetize new offerings as the market demands while delivering an excellent experience for our customers in the process."

Founded in 2005, Salam has quickly become a leading homegrown telecom company at the heart of the Kingdom's communications modernization efforts. Oracle's technologies will provide the modern technology architecture to help support and extend Salam's digital abilities and help expedite the launch of wide-ranging services.

TCS Partners with Government of India to Transform GeM into a World-Class Public Procurement Platform

10 August 2023

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as a strategic partner by the Government of India to transform the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) into a state-of-the-art public procurement platform with enhanced transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity.

The GeM platform provides an end-to-end online marketplace for central and state government bodies, including public sector undertakings, for procurement of common use goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner. This e-marketplace currently handles a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of over \$2 trillion purchased by over 70,000 buyer organizations from over 6.5 million sellers and service providers, including over 800,000 medium and small enterprises. The current platform, while successful, has architectural challenges in scaling up and in meeting the evolving needs of buyers and sellers.

The partnership will see TCS design and build a new modern solution leveraging new technologies, while maintaining the current platform. The new GeM platform will be based on e-commerce and e-marketplace principles with multi-tenancy, multi-rule, multilingual, open source, and open-API-based architecture. It will be highly scalable, designed to accommodate the anticipated six-fold growth in GMV over the next six years.

The new platform will be designed for interoperability and cloud neutrality, making it technology agnostic and vendor-independent. Its deep configurability will ease the onboarding of diverse buyer organizations having local rules, thus allowing them to transact on the national platform while maintaining their local flavor.

TCS will also design a better user experience for all stakeholders. The adaptable design will ease onboarding of new sellers, driving greater participation from a more diverse vendor base, especially SMEs /MSMEs, resulting in greater inclusivity and a more democratized access to the public sector market. The new platform will use data analytics to forecast projections and improve supply chain management, and advanced AI/ML technologies to help identify potential fraud, enabling more transparent operations.

P K Singh, CEO, GeM, said, *“In its next avatar, GeM is envisioned to be an all-inclusive platform for government procurement, offering improved ease of doing business and transparency. With TCS as our SI partner, we are assured of architecting the new GeM with unmatched experience, rigor, and passion to develop a world class solution with resilient design, enriched user experience and innovative services. We also look forward to TCS’ expertise of managing mission mode programs. We have a strong aspiration to scale up GeM to transcend geographies.”*

Tej Paul Bhatla, Business Head, Public Services – India, TCS, said, *“We are proud to partner with the Government of India for the GeM platform’s digital transformation, adding to our long list of contributions to Digital India. Our extensive experience in delivering large-scale transformation projects, technology expertise, deep domain knowledge in public services, and world-class delivery governance will help GeM achieve its vision for the next decade. The new GeM platform will transform public procurement with enhanced user experience, improved transparency, and greater inclusivity.”*

TCS’ Public Services India business unit provides services to central and state governments, building innovative technology-led solutions that enhance transparency and efficiency, and contributing to the development of Digital India. In the last two decades, it has powered several national mission-mode programs, creating digital public infrastructure, transforming citizen services, and touching a billion lives. These include passport issuance, health insurance, financial inclusion, investor facilitation, and pensions administration. These digital lifelines have built ecosystems that enhance the last-mile delivery of government services to the citizens of India and strengthen e-governance. TCS leverages its deep contextual knowledge, unparalleled experience as a system integrator and IP-based offerings such as the DigiGOV™ suite, to drive digital transformation.

Wintershall Dea Works with IBM to Ramp Up AI Initiatives Across its Organization

7 August 2023

Wintershall Dea, one of the leading independent natural gas and oil companies in Europe that is now evolving into a leading gas and carbon management company, is working with IBM Consulting to establish an AI Center of Competence (CoC) while progressing multiple value-generating AI use cases that support an efficient energy production. Together, both companies maintain strong relationships with Microsoft as a technology partner: On the one hand,

Wintershall Dea was already using Microsoft Azure for its data platform while IBM Consulting maintains a collaboration with Microsoft for delivering data and AI projects based on Azure.

Wintershall Dea has launched a comprehensive initiative for scaling AI to better capitalize on data and drive process and production improvement across the enterprise.

Formed by the merger of Wintershall and DEA (Deutsche Erdoel AG) in 2019, Wintershall Dea is committed to technological innovation, employee empowerment and environmentally responsible energy production. As the two companies joined forces, the need for AI to connect and capitalize on data from across the larger organization became clear. Furthermore, the company acts in a standardized environment, relies on strong partner ecosystem, and needs to meet regulatory guidelines. To better capitalize on a huge amount of enterprise data assets, the company established a holistic AI approach. Implementing AI at the heart of the company allows Wintershall Dea to coordinate AI usage across the company: as small, easy-to-implement “fireflies” but also as traditional, large-scale projects. This enables the company to work more efficiently and save costs which allows further investment in innovative ways of energy production. Furthermore, efficient data exchange and access can be guaranteed for the large eco-system of partners of Wintershall Dea.

“We are exchanging more data internally and externally than in the past,” says Kathrin Dufour, Senior Vice President of Digitization and Technology at Wintershall Dea. “And a smooth and efficient data exchange is a crucial process for us as we are working in a standardized environment, and we want to make cooperation within our ecosystem as easy as possible. Harnessing AI is key to reach this goal.”

To optimize their AI approach, Wintershall Dea selected a centralized platform and methodology working with IBM Consulting to support its data journey. IBM Consulting provides access to a huge reservoir of AI experience and the experts have a track record from working with Wintershall Dea on previous projects for more than 4 years now. For the technical foundation of the AI approach, the team at Wintershall Dea developed a component-based architecture using state-of-the-art services for data management, data visualization, Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service as well as AI model development and execution on Azure. In particular, IBM provided an adapted version of its IBM® AI at Scale methodology for Azure to maximize the power of the existing platform.

Ulrich Lorang, Vice President of Data Science, Data Governance, and Data Hub at Wintershall Dea summarizes the core idea of the AI initiative: “Driving value through AI definitely is top of mind at every step we are conducting at the CoC. And we already have several proof points that the AI projects empower our workforce and support our business objectives. Looking back, we build up everything from having just a vision until the complete implementation of the CoC in only 2,5 years and I am deeply impressed how fast we as a team managed this.”

With their new AI at Scale approach, Wintershall Dea can build AI projects that are scalable from the beginning. The CoC community was formed not only with data scientists in the headquarter, but also with Citizen Data scientists with different backgrounds e.g., geoscientists, engineers, economists, and others with strong mathematical programming skills – all who could help drive data science projects within their respective teams on site. Through a series of

workshops and trainings, the oil and gas company up skills its employees to ensure the growing community is familiar with the business value of AI and the benefits of cooperation with the CoC.

Wintershall Dea primarily conducts two types of AI projects: small, easy-to-implement “fireflies” and traditional, large-scale projects. A “firefly” is a Wintershall Dea concept for conducting a quick, scalable AI project to solve a simple problem, e.g., extracting key values from more than 2,000 PDF documents and feeding that data automatically into a spreadsheet. Other “fireflies” use the power of Generative AI to efficiently summarize reports or search for relevant information in Wintershall Dea's knowledge base to increase productivity across the company. “Generative AI can fuel a new era of efficiency and optimization, helping to unlock untapped reservoirs of productivity,” says Max Schemmer, Engagement Lead at IBM Consulting. Besides the “fireflies”, the company pursues larger-scale AI projects that generate foundational technology leadership within the industry. One example includes an AI-driven solution for maintaining its gas and oil wells, started in Norway and now rolled out globally. Especially data from subsea wells in operation are today analyzed with AI capabilities which allows the engineers to detect potential leakages more accurate. This benefit of AI usage not only helps Wintershall Dea to maintain their wells, but also helps to protect the environment and to make energy production safer and cleaner.

Reflecting on the collaboration, Stephan Bloehdorn, Practice Leader AI & Analytics at IBM Consulting says: “Getting to a maturity level where AI is routinely and effectively leveraged at corporate scale requires a dedicated effort that combines business strategy, organization, technology, and company culture. We are very happy that Wintershall Dea has the confidence in us to support their AI journey. With their holistic and integrated approach as well as their drive and energy to achieve real results at every stage of the journey they are a pioneer in AI management.”

Product News

Expanded API Now Available for the Trimble Agriculture Cloud, Creating an Open Environment Benefiting Farmers and Their Partners

9 August 2023

Expanded API Creates Additional Data Exchange Capabilities for Connected Devices

Trimble announced the release of its flexible API for the Trimble Agriculture Cloud, an industry cloud that streamlines farming operations. The availability of this API represents the next evolution of connectivity for agriculture integrators by coupling in-field devices and operational workflows for enabling compatibility with both Trimble and third-party agriculture applications.

As part of its focus to provide precision agriculture technology for mixed fleets, Trimble has created a path to enable broad compatibility that seamlessly connects local, regional and national applications to Trimble equipment in the field, as well as the data it collects.

The Trimble Agriculture Cloud helps farmers execute workflows with greater accuracy, more efficiency and fewer errors while driving sustainability. It also centralizes data needed for compliance and regulatory requirements. For integrators, access to the Trimble Agriculture Cloud's API enables third parties to connect to the Trimble platform and its key workflow applications, including Trimble Ag Software, Trimble Ag Mobile and the Precision-IQä field application, expanding the value of the solutions they offer.

"At Trimble, our vision is to help farmers work more efficiently through data-driven farming practices and decision support tools," said Dave Britton, vice president of Product Management, Trimble Agriculture. "Enabling farmers to complete workflows that involve solutions from multiple technology providers is critical, especially in cases where third-party applications address unique regional farming practices. With this in mind, we created the Trimble Agriculture Cloud and an expanded, flexible API to establish a place where integrators could easily connect and share data, regardless of brand."

API capabilities include farm setup, task records and recommendations, materials, vehicle setup, work orders, harvest and crop zones activities. Through the combination of software and hardware, Trimble enables integrators to create value for farmers and their partners, including consultants, agronomists, custom applicators and more, by facilitating workflows that leverage connectivity to the machine in the field, improving the overall crop production process.

With the recent update of the Trimble Agriculture Cloud, the most common API workflows available to third-party integrators address the majority of applications on the farm, including:

- Accessing Trimble display as-applied data in third-party applications for productivity analysis and regulatory compliance
- Sending prescriptions to and from third-party applications to Trimble displays
- Aligning field resources such as boundaries, guidance lines and landmarks between connected third-party applications and Trimble displays for in-field execution

Trimble currently has more than 180 million customer acres (72.8 million hectares) using its Trimble Agriculture Cloud on the connected platform, along with many partner integrators ranging from enterprise farmers, customer software applications and local and regional dealers.

"As an environmental software company that enables farmers and their partners across New Zealand to connect, manage, visualize and share their environmental data, we need partners that can make data sharing simple. Syncing data to the Trimble Agriculture Cloud allows us to easily send prescription files to Trimble displays and receive equipment activity data back, allowing farmers and their contractors to provide proof of application for their spreading and spray applications," said Chloe Walker, chief operating officer, Precision Farming Ltd. "The Trimble Agriculture API opens up the market to a much broader range of options for New Zealand-based GPS guidance users, allowing them to utilize the devices of their choice and automatically return that data to where they need it to go. Proof of application data from Trimble displays can now be returned to the farmer, supplier and regulator as part of a digitized workflow management process for contractors."

To learn more about the Trimble Agriculture Cloud or to become an API partner, visit: agriculture.trimble.com/en/partners/developers/software-integration-api.

The Trimble Agriculture Cloud is part of the Trimble Developer Program, a Trimble-wide initiative to streamline the developer experience across the Trimble software ecosystem, making it easier for developers to discover, learn, access and receive support for APIs and SDKs. To learn more, visit: www.trimble.com/en/developer.

Introducing opentext.ai and OpenText Aviator

7 August 2023

[OpenText™](#), announces [opentext.ai](#), the company's vision and direction for AI. Opentext.ai is a new strategic approach to advance how customers can solve complex problems by applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLM) with their OpenText Information Management software. The company is announcing:

- ai – the company's vision, strategy, and next steps for customers to leverage AI capabilities from OpenText. Please visit our website [opentext.ai](#) for more information.
- OpenText Aviator™ – a family of practical and trusted generative AI capabilities within our Information Management Cloud Editions for: content, experience, business network, IT operations, developer operations, and cybersecurity.
- OpenText Aviator™ Private Cloud – a new managed services offering to host and manage private LLM data and LLM models for OpenText private cloud customers. OpenText Aviator™ Private Cloud will be offered as an extension to the company's current private cloud.
- Titanium X enhancements – Titanium X is our capability roadmap and architecture through Cloud Editions 25. Titanium X is being updated for deeper integration and will leverage our AI tools across Cloud Editions, including foundation technologies such as [OpenText Vertica](#), [OpenText IDOL](#), [OpenText Magellan](#), [Core Capture for Machine Learning](#), [IOT Services](#), [Risk Guard](#) and [more](#).

opentext.ai: Enabling Customers to Make the AI Pivot

“The internet changed everything. With AI, everything must change,” said Mark J. Barrenechea, CEO & CTO OpenText. “It is clear this is a new era of technology, the Cognitive era. AI will impact what it means to be a company, what it means to work, and what it means to be human. We are excited to announce our initial vision and direction, opentext.ai, and our next set of capabilities called OpenText Aviator™ as part of our Titanium X roadmap.”

Barrenechea further added “We have helped customers build large data-sets over time, and now we will be providing the building blocks to help them leverage their data securely, in both private and public clouds. We look forward to engaging with customers to begin their AI journey with OpenText as their trusted partner.”

OpenText has long approached AI-led automation by helping customers effectively manage information and complex data from all events. With the acquisition of Micro Focus in January

2023, OpenText expanded its mission to include new AI capabilities with [Vertica](#) and [IDOL](#), including geospatial and time series analytics, in-database machine learning, unstructured data analytics, sentiment analysis, etc. Moreover, OpenText has layered in world-class cybersecurity, protecting data and metadata at the code level, within core applications, and in the cloud as it engages with machine learning engines.

Now with [opentext.ai](#), the vision is a poly-model approach focused on the right model for the right job. Grounded in LLMs on top of private secured data, [opentext.ai](#) allows for a full stack or modular approach to practical AI. Customers can take advantage of LLM-based capabilities within applications, or they can utilize OpenText Cloud API Services to create the right sandbox to experiment.

Information management and connected data across multi-cloud environments is foundational to AI. The [opentext.ai](#) approach is what customers need to make the AI pivot by bringing together predictive AI-led analytics, AI-powered conversational search, and generative AI. This advancement will enable organizations to create new types of customer engagement, build smarter products, improve internal operations, and make smarter decisions. Some of the use cases that OpenText plans to enable include:

- *Customer Service & Business Support*: automate level 1 support with conversational assistants that utilize LLM-based search capabilities to find and retrieve all types of data (e.g., contracts, tickets, usage), reducing time-to-resolution and increasing both customer and agent satisfaction.
- *Marketing*: communicate at scale with personalized, autogenerated content using private data, LLM-based search to retrieve related content and images, and generative AI to bring together insights with content generation capabilities.
- *R&D*: develop software applications with speed by applying LLM to gain predictive insights, utilizing conversational search to drill down into problem areas within the DevOps lifecycle, and effectively manage quality by autogenerating next needed test cases.
- *Sales*: accelerate onboarding of new sales representatives by utilizing conversational assistant powered by LLM to find the most relevant product training and utilize generative AI to help develop materials for the next customer engagement.
- *Supply Chain*: empower employees with the ability to anticipate risk and compliance requirements, easily locate vendor contracts with LLM-search, and apply generative AI to manage electronic connections more efficiently across vendors and partners.

OpenText Aviator™: Practical Generative AI on Private Secured Data Sources

Utilizing AI to accelerate its own innovation, OpenText Aviator is the LLM capabilities within each OpenText business cloud. Today's announcement is OpenText's vision and direction, and the first OpenText Aviator capabilities will be available to customers starting with Cloud Editions 23.4 due out in October. We invite customers to explore our design blueprints as we will now be incorporating more AI features into our release cycles every 90 days.

Introducing OpenText Aviator:

- OpenText Content Aviator: within [OpenText Core Content](#), embrace conversational search experience to easily access stored knowledge, manage structured and unstructured data at scale, and automate intelligent workspaces.
- OpenText Business Network Aviator: within [OpenText Business Network Cloud Foundation](#), revolutionize business connectivity, identify anomalies in trading data, automate data mapping that enables exchange, and support intelligent decisions.
- OpenText IT Operations Aviator: within [OpenText SMAX](#), automate the full IT Operations value chain, redefine Level 1 Business Support across IT, HR, and Sales, and discover intelligent automation using generative AI.
- OpenText DevOps Aviator: within [OpenText ValueEdge](#), elevate developers around the world, enhance all aspects of application delivery, and get actionable insights into digital value stream KPIs.
- OpenText Cybersecurity Aviator: within [OpenText BrightCloud](#), gain contextual threat intelligence via API cloud services and react to threats in real time.
- OpenText Experience Aviator: within [OpenText Exstream](#), transform customer communications and elevate digital experiences through advanced LLM and generative AI for personalized content creation.

OpenText Private Cloud Aviator™: Trusted Partner for Your AI Journey

For OpenText private cloud customers, OpenText will deliver a new Professional Service offering to help set up a private LLM, using out-of-the-box Aviator features or customers' own private cloud environment for their information. OpenText can help customers advance using the data layers they operate in, matching those up with the right models, engineering the right way to extract that data, and then operationalizing the entire process. OpenText Private Cloud Aviator will empower organizations to experiment with AI and LLMs, all while their data is protected.

To learn more, visit opentext.ai.

