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CIMdata News

CIMdata Brings the PLM Industry’s Premier Education Program to Silicon Valley

15 September 2016

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic consulting and research firm, will bring its highly acclaimed Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Certificate Program to Santa Clara, California from December 5-9. The program is recognized as the PLM industry’s most comprehensive solution-agnostic education offering.

The three- or five-day program prepares PLM professionals to successfully address the challenges commonly faced in PLM strategy development and implementation. The assessment-based certificate program includes a personalized classroom experience, individual and team-based exercises, and individual evaluations of achievement. The program is facilitated by a team of CIMdata experts. Upon successful completion of the program, participants receive a CIMdata PLM Certificate and are invited to join CIMdata’s global PLM Leadership community.

The program is built on CIMdata’s over 30 years of experience guiding industrial companies in successfully defining and implementing best-in-class PLM strategies and tactics. The program is appropriate for industrial companies that are considering PLM or are already implementing PLM, and to PLM solution providers.

CIMdata’s one-day Executive Short Course and two-day PLM Fundamentals for Solution Providers Short Course will also be available at this time.

For more information on CIMdata’s PLM Certificate Program visit our website at <http://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-certificate-program>.

About CIMdata

CIMdata, a leading independent worldwide firm, provides strategic management consulting to maximize an enterprise’s ability to design and deliver innovative products and services through the application of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions. Since its founding in 1983, CIMdata has delivered world-class knowledge, expertise, and best-practice methods on PLM solutions. These solutions incorporate both business processes and a wide-ranging set of PLM-enabling technologies.

CIMdata works with both industrial organizations and providers of technologies and services seeking competitive advantage in the global economy. In addition to consulting, CIMdata conducts research, provides PLM-focused subscription services, and produces several commercial publications. The company also provides industry education through PLM certificate programs, seminars, and conferences worldwide. CIMdata serves clients around the world from offices in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. To learn more about CIMdata’s services, visit our website at www.CIMdata.com, follow us on

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Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CIMdataPLMNews>, or contact CIMdata at: 3909 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, USA, Tel: +1 734.668.9922. Fax: +1 734.668.1957; or at Oogststraat 20, 6004 CV Weert, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 (0) 495.533.666.

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Extending the Digital Thread with Integrated Manufacturing Process Planning: CIMdata Commentary

13 September 2016

Key takeaways:

- *The lack of integration between EBOM, MBOM, manufacturing process planning, and work instructions results in information silos that create gaps in traceability and make it difficult to keep data synchronized—directly impacting product cost, quality, and time to market*
- *Automating the transformation of the Engineering Bill of Material (EBOM) to Manufacturing Bill of Material (MBOM) is a goal of many Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) implementations, yet few fully automated solutions exist due to complexities of the transformation*
- *Improving the connection between product development and manufacturing data is a key enabler for digital thread and digital twin strategies*
- *Aras's new Manufacturing Process Planning solution leverages the Aras single platform architecture to enable a solution that automatically derives the MBOM from a manufacturing process plan and maintains as-designed to as-planned traceability*

Introduction

Process planning is a function within a manufacturing organization that defines the processes used to physically produce a product. Processes can be as simple as purchasing a component from a supplier, or as complex as defining a detailed sequence starting with raw material acquisition through machining, heat treating, and other finish work. Assembly processes can include components such as adhesives, electronics, and software. The data within a process plan can be complex and diverse. Typically, as a process plan is being created, the required MBOM is derived from the EBOM.

Figure 1 shows a simple example of how the items within an EBOM are restructured in an MBOM as the process plan is created. The MBOM represents data fundamentally differently from the EBOM. The EBOM commonly has components structured by product function, e.g. all the hardware is contained in a subassembly. The MBOM represents data from the view of how it will be manufactured and assembled. For example, hinge hardware is consumed in four different manufacturing steps. Identifying at which level of hierarchy an item gets consumed requires manufacturing process knowledge; and reconciling that all EBOM items are consumed gets complex when changes happen in disconnected systems.

In addition to process plans, work instructions—detailed documentation describing how to execute tasks to produce a product—are necessary to support efficient shop floor operations and ensure product quality. Work instructions are most often a mix of text and graphics. More advanced production cells have electronic access to work orders that describe the items to be produced, work instructions and any other relevant information needed to fulfill the work order.

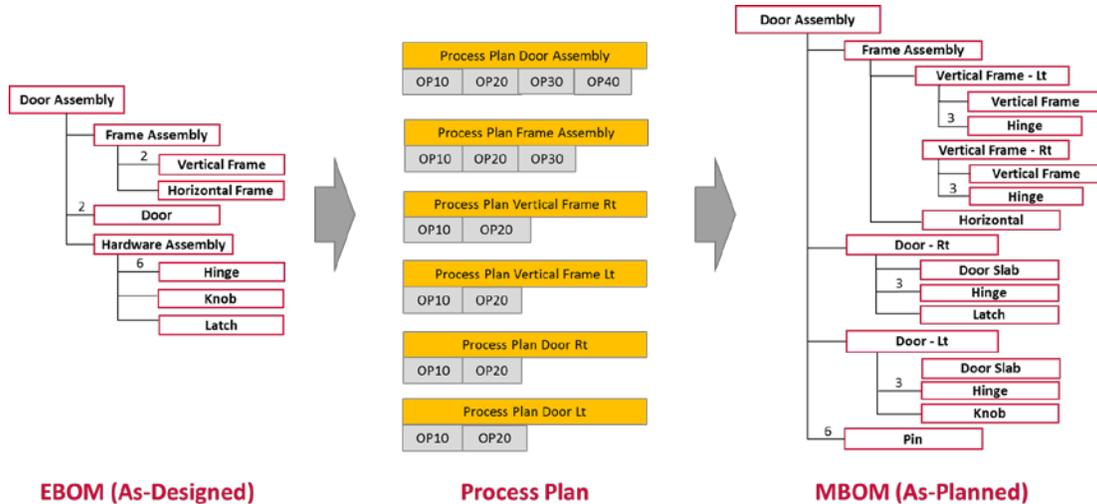


Figure 1–EBOM and MBOM for a Door Assembly
(Courtesy of Aras Corporation)

Digital Thread

At many CIMdata clients a key PLM related goal is the integration of product development with manufacturing via digital data—often called a digital thread. Techniques such as automated EBOM-MBOM transformation support the digital thread and are employed to try to shorten the timeline and improve product quality. But even at more advanced clients, those with a digital twin vision (complete, connected, digital definition of the product, how it functions, and how it is manufactured), there are still gaps with manual tasks across the lifecycle, especially within the transfer of information to manufacturing. Since these gaps occur later in the product lifecycle, they can have a negative impact on quality, time to market, and profitability. The scale of the problem increases dramatically as product complexity increases.

Manufacturing Process Planning from Aras

To help deal with these issues Aras recently released a new solution for manufacturing process planning. Available for both Aras Innovator subscribers and open users, the Aras Manufacturing Process Planning Application (MPP) provides process plan authoring capabilities that simultaneously create the MBOM and process plan from the EBOM. The technology was developed to support large manufacturers such as GE who has publically reviewed their success with the solution's predecessor. In the new solution, the process plan “consumes” the EBOM within the manufacturing process plan and outputs an MBOM. The MBOM is structured in the order of consumption and adds in the non-EBOM items including phantoms, consumables, tooling, and other needed resources. The EBOM, process plan and MBOM are fully integrated within the same data structure. As was the case with GE, the solution can be deployed alongside an existing legacy PLM system, avoiding the need for a disruptive and expensive “rip and replace” implementation.

Figure 2 shows the MPP user interface displaying the process plan view. The workbench area in the lower left can display different resources including EBOM parts, equipment and skills. On the right, the work instruction is created concurrently with the creation of the process plan and can include models, drawings, pictures, graphics, videos, and text controlled by Aras Innovator. The process plan is created and edited using drag and drop from the workbench to the tree view in the upper left.

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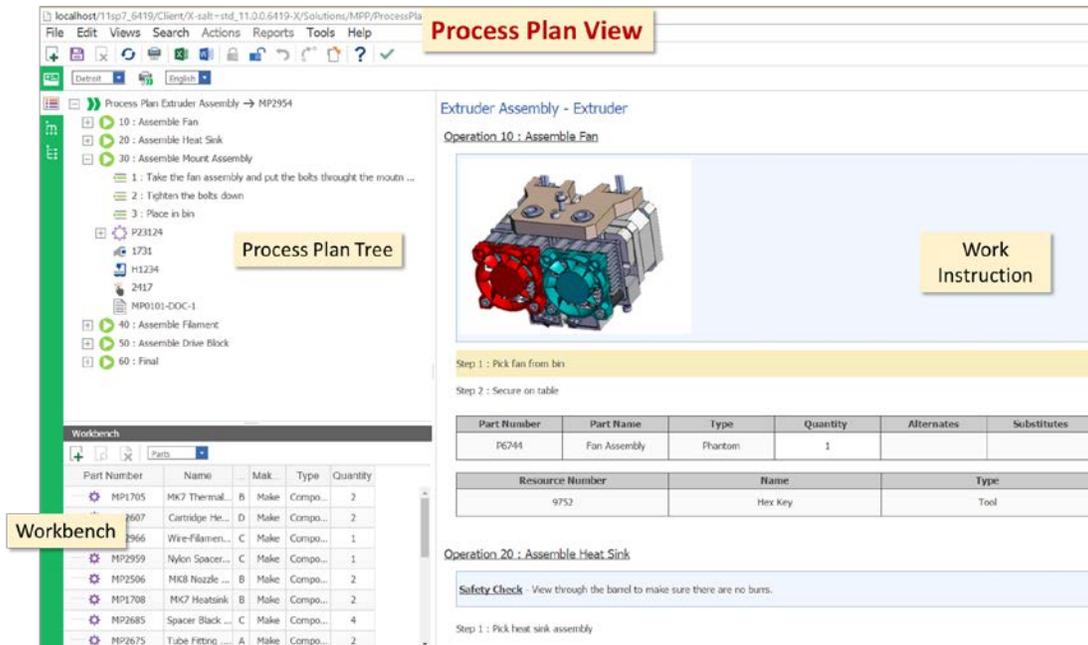


Figure 2–Process Planning View within the Aras MPP Solution
(Courtesy of Aras Corp)

Since MPP is built on the Aras Innovator platform it shares the same flexible data model as other applications. By referencing the EBOM, change impacts can be identified and managed. Version control can be enabled on MBOM, process plans, work instructions, and other items, improving digital thread traceability across the lifecycle. For example, if an EBOM is modified to increase the quantity of fasteners, the MBOM will display a reconciliation error identifying the unconsumed fasteners. Process plans can also be linked to quality documents such as process failure mode and effects analysis (PFMEA) and inspection and test control plans.

CIMdata has been promoting the concept of a Bill of Information (BOI)—a linked structure of all product definition data—for many years, and the MPP solution from Aras supports this concept by linking product development with manufacturing leading to improve traceability. For example in an Industry 4.0 environment, suppose the Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT) interface to the manufacturing floor indicates a machining center is having difficulty maintaining a tolerance on a part. A manufacturing engineer would be able to navigate the digital thread from the work instruction to the PFMEA, from there to the MBOM, to the EBOM, to the original design to investigate the issue. In most organizations, tracing through the data would be a painful task, since it exists in multiple systems. With the platform-based approach from Aras a proper BOI connected to the shop floor becomes much easier for closed loop processes.

The Aras MPP solution provides many benefits to manufacturing companies. CIMdata sees three key advantages enabled by Aras' MPP solution that can dramatically improve global manufacturing operations, particularly for complex products or systems. The reconciliation function ensures that all components in the EBOM are consumed in the MBOM and graphically indicates potential issues to manufacturing, such as when an item is currently part of an active change process. By tightly integrating the MBOM with the EBOM, changes flow easily to avoid rework situations, and since MBOMs are full resolved and structured as ERP expects to receive them, few if any manual modifications are required. Perhaps the most important capability is change impact analysis. Since MPP enables all the data from

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design through production to be linked, whether managed in Aras or federated from other existing systems, the impact of changes can be quickly and easily assessed, with confidence that all the impacts are identified.

Conclusion

EBOM to MBOM integration is a capability needed by many manufacturers to reduce errors and improve the speed of transferring products into manufacturing. Manufacturing process plans and work instructions typically operate in silos that are disconnected from product development. Connecting them can have significant impact on manufacturing cost and quality and can even result in reduced risk of recalls, especially in regulated industries. In addition, better product development to manufacturing integration can shorten time to market and enable new capabilities such as the digital twin.

Aras's MPP application provides a solution to manage the EBOM to MBOM transformation. By using a manufacturing process plan to derive the MBOM, data integrity can be preserved and EBOM changes propagated to the process plan, MBOM, and work instructions. Manual work that has to be repeated for every change or variant is automated, reducing time spent, minimizing errors, improving quality, and lowering cost.

Aras subscribers that need to support manufacturing should evaluate MPP since it is included within their subscription. Companies that need to support complex manufacturing processes should also investigate the solution as the tight EBOM to MBOM linkage, process planning, and work instruction capabilities can have a significant impact on meeting operational requirements.

About CIMdata

CIMdata, an independent worldwide firm, provides strategic management consulting to maximize an enterprise's ability to design and deliver innovative products and services through the application of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM). CIMdata provides world-class knowledge, expertise, and best-practice methods on PLM. CIMdata also offers research, subscription services, publications, and education through international conferences. To learn more about CIMdata's services, visit our website at <http://www.CIMdata.com> or contact CIMdata at: 3909 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, USA. Tel: +1 734.668.9922. Fax: +1 734.668.1957; or at Oogststraat 20, 6004 CV Weert, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 (0) 495.533.666.

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Stan Przybylinski and Monica Schnitger Explore Multidisciplinary Design Optimization in New ESTECO Video

14 September 2016

In this video, filmed at the International modeFRONTIER Users' Meeting 2016, Monica Schnitger, industry analyst, and Stan Przybylinski, Vice-President of Research at CIMdata, give interesting insights on how a shared methodology for CAE model/analysis is possible. Traceability and version of simulation data is key to the management of product development complexity.

[Watch the video here.](#)

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Acquisitions

Altair Acquires Solid Iris Technologies, Leader in Photorealistic Rendering and Visualization

14 September 2016

Altair has acquired Solid Iris Technologies, a Greece-based technology company specializing in photorealistic rendering and visualization, with its high-end solution “Thea Render”. The companies have built a relationship over the past several years, with Altair using Solid Iris’ Thea Render superior technology to provide rendering functionality in its solidThinking Evolve concept design software.

James R. Scapa, Altair’s Founder, Chairman and CEO, notes that, “With the continued growth in performance and cloud availability of high performance computing (HPC), the opportunity to deliver rendering solutions for applications from architectural visualization and product design to entertainment and augmented reality is truly exciting. We look forward to delivering powerful new capabilities our software community of designers and engineers.”

Thea Render is a state-of-the-art Biased, Unbiased and GPU renderer with a rich set of innovative features, a powerful material system and its own advanced studio. Integrating this photorealistic rendering technology with solidThinking and Altair products will contribute significantly to a completely new experience to visualize, model and design. Thea Render is also integrated on many modeling applications, with thousands of users who will benefit from Altair’s global support and training resources.

“Vision is the most important human sense”, says Ioannis Pantazopoulos, Managing Director of Solid Iris, “and it plays a vital role in our understanding of the world. As we fully integrate our team and technology within Altair, we are committed to advancing the user’s experience such that product creation will seem to occur inside a real scene rather than in front of a computer screen.”

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Atos to Acquire Anthelio Healthcare Solutions

12 September 2016

Atos announces having signed a share purchase agreement to acquire Anthelio Healthcare Solutions (Anthelio), the largest independent provider of healthcare technology solutions in North America, for an enterprise value of US\$275 million. This acquisition, fully financed by cash, uniquely positions Atos to reach a broader customer base in the U.S. healthcare market by strengthening the scale and scope of its services. The combined organization will support Atos customer’s need to better optimize financial performance, improve the patient care experience, engage patients through state-of-the-art applications and address the increasing demands of security, risk and compliance.

Anthelio generates about US\$200 million of annual revenue growing at 8%. Thanks to strong revenue synergies, the Group expects the newly formed US healthcare practice to reach double digit organic growth in 2018.

“We are pleased to welcome the Anthelio team to Atos. With their strong and loyal customer base and

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our combined commitment to providing a world-class customer experience, our ambition with Anthelio is to reinforce our Healthcare footprint in the U.S. and to become the leader in digital healthcare solutions”, said Michel-Alain Proch, Group Senior Executive Vice President and CEO North American Operations, Atos.

Atos is acquiring Anthelio from Actis, a leading London-based growth markets investment firm, its majority shareholder since November 2010, as well as from McLaren Health Care Corporation, a leading fully integrated health network and the largest customer of Anthelio.

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D3 Acquires Autodesk Manufacturing & Plant Business from PacifiCAD

13 September 2016

D3 Technologies, a reseller of Autodesk Manufacturing Solutions, announces the acquisition of the Autodesk manufacturing & plant business assets of PacifiCAD, Inc., an Autodesk solutions and services provider based in Spokane, WA. PacifiCAD will continue to own and operate their Autodesk AEC business.

This addition to D3 creates a powerful formation of best-in-class expertise and support for both the manufacturing, plant, and process pipe industries. Also, with this strategic acquisition, D3 will now serve the Central U.S., Gulf Coast, Mountain and Northwest regions with Autodesk Manufacturing and Process Plant solutions, coupled with a strong team of engineering, design, simulation, process automation, and programming professionals.

“We are incredibly excited for PacifiCAD’s Autodesk manufacturing customers,” said Ron Reed, CEO of PacifiCAD. “They will all benefit from D3’s focus on Autodesk Manufacturing & Plant solutions and the unsurpassed level of customer service, support, training and consulting services that D3 brings to the table for manufacturing companies. I’m also very excited about the strategic partnership PacifiCAD and D3 are forming.”

One of the most important factors of this acquisition for both D3 and PacifiCAD is ongoing client support and consistency. “We have tremendous pride in the level of customer service we’ve provided our clients over the years, and I don’t know that I could’ve supported a deal like this with any other Autodesk partner besides D3,” said Bill Inman, President of PacifiCAD. “It’s evident that D3’s successes come from the never-ending commitment that their team has to its clients,” Inman continued.

“We started with strategic partnership conversations,” stated Kevin Schlack, President of D3, “then ultimately, we realized there were tremendous synergies between our companies. Acquiring the Autodesk Manufacturing & Plant business, along with continuing to work together as strategic partners, supports our founding purpose; to field a passionate team of experts to help our manufacturing customers be the absolute best at what they do,” Schlack continued. “As our professional services and consulting team continues to grow, we always focus on the customer first and foremost.”

With its expertise in Autodesk solutions and a strong services bench, D3 also provides strategic training, programming, and consulting services for other Autodesk reseller partners throughout the country. D3’s team will partner with other Autodesk partners to provide services and support for Autodesk products such as: Inventor, Inventor ETO, Plant, AutoCAD, AutoCAD P&ID, AutoCAD Mechanical, AutoCAD Electrical, AutoCAD Architecture, Factory, Fusion, 3ds Max, CAM, Simulation, Vault, PLM.

“Congratulations to D3 on the acquisition,” said Ray Savona, Vice President, Americas Sales at

Autodesk. “We expect the expanded D3 team to provide its proven recipe for customer success to a larger industry base. This is an exciting time for Autodesk manufacturing customers in the Northwest.”

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Company News

Airbus Creates a ‘Greenhouse’ for Digital Transformation

14 September 2016

Airbus is focusing considerable effort to devise innovative, new ways to streamline engineering, test, manufacturing and quality to build planes faster and more effectively.

From an IT perspective, making the business faster means undertaking a digital transformation so that teams across the enterprise can access and share product data more quickly and easily than ever before.

Airbus relies on more than 1,000 point systems to keep engineering, test, manufacturing and quality running smoothly. It’s these applications that Airbus IT recognized needed to be modernized, upgraded, and integrated to streamline the business. “The question was how can IT enable modernization of so many systems without writing code from scratch and taking years to do it,” said Henrik Weimer who oversees PLM architecture and innovation at Airbus. “We recognized early on that how we approached digital transformation was going to be as important as what we modernized.”

Welcome to the Greenhouse

Rather than using a traditional “top down” method - forcing new systems on the business - the Airbus IT team inverted the traditional IT approach by inviting people from the business to modernize and enhance their applications in an IT supported environment they called their “Greenhouse”.

They then introduced the Greenhouse concept to application owners and developers across the business via an extremely friendly and welcoming promotional campaign. In it, users are invited to come to the Greenhouse, which is positioned as a means for doing real-time prototyping and rapid development for application modernization. Moreover, rather than getting traditional warnings of what they cannot do, users are told that IT will help them “grow” their applications rapidly for use across the extended enterprise.

“We created the greenhouse capability and invite people to voluntarily come and bring their old and unsupported systems, and we use new platform technology to quickly modernize and port their solutions to what we call a “PDM light” backbone,” explains Weimer. “That’s a 180 degree turn from the traditional IT model in large enterprise in which IT makes decisions, customizes the systems, and forces them onto business users.”

To ensure users from the business would benefit from the greenhouse approach, Airbus IT needed a flexible technology platform that included functionality traditionally found in systems for product lifecycle management (PLM), product data management (PDM), content management (CMS), project management and other areas.

After an evaluation of multiple PLM, PDM, and CMS products, Airbus selected Aras as the enabling technology for the Greenhouse. Because the Aras platform is quite flexible, scalable, and upgradable it supports the Agile implementation process used and provides predictable ownership costs because custom applications can be upgraded easily. Easy and open integration to other systems within the

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company was also important because the IT team would maintain their use of some of the existing systems for PLM outside the Greenhouse initiative, treating PDM light as a complimentary environment.

In just a single year since beginning their Greenhouse approach, IT at Airbus has launched the Greenhouse, drawn business users to participate, and incubated and delivered a number of projects. Today, anyone from engineering, manufacturing, quality and test can come to the Greenhouse with any idea to modernize or develop an application. Projects come to the Greenhouse from across the company. Once a project gains maturity, it can then enter a more classical IT support orientation.

“Users love it because it has a sandbox feel, yet it supplements their efforts with light governance and walks them through project coordination, funding of their application and next steps,” said Vincent Soumier, who leads the Greenhouse initiative at Airbus. “Then, they’re even more pleasantly surprised to find the IT team providing guidance and support into the future.”

Greenhouse Grows its First Project

The first system brought to the Greenhouse was an aging application for Test Information Management. It was a good initial project because of the sophistication and scope. “Our success with the deployment of Test Information Management for aircraft end-to-end across the structural test pyramid in multi-site operation including our extended enterprise proved the viability of the Greenhouse and Aras for complex engineering business processes,” states Weimer. By completing the project quickly the Greenhouse concept and the PDM light backbone were validated for other business areas. Not only was it developed quickly and accepted by users, Airbus successfully upgraded it just five months after the initial development.

Today, more and more users across the organization are using the Greenhouse.

A Productivity Boon for IT

The Greenhouse has proven a tremendous success within Airbus. Today, it is enabling rapid prototyping and attracting increasing demand. In fact, it now has its own project pipeline.

According to Henrik Weimer of Airbus, the Greenhouse is delivering three strategic benefits. The first is that it is bringing greater productivity to engineering, manufacturing, test and quality so that aircraft delivery can happen sooner than expected. Second, Airbus has gained the most cost-efficient way to modernize systems for production in the fastest, most agile manner available. Third, organizational changes are taking place as a result of the ability to quickly bring innovative applications online.

“People are thinking they can now institutionalize great new ideas and processes without having to jump through too many hoops,” notes Weimer. “That type of innovative thinking will lead us forward in a more agile manner as we push even greater transformation.”

In the end, this is Airbus IT proving that how they approach a problem is as important as what they use to solve it. Their innovative Greenhouse approach is thrusting the digital transformation forward by rethinking processes and modernizing IT applications for manufacturing, engineering, test, and quality across the factories and extended enterprise.

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ANSYS Launches New Program to Help Startup Companies Create

14 September 2016

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Startup companies can speed their innovative products to market by leveraging the same cutting-edge engineering simulation solutions used by larger, more established industry leaders, thanks to a new program from ANSYS.

Small startups often skip engineering simulation because they think the cost can be prohibitive. As a result, engineers in those nascent companies spend an inordinate amount of time and waste funding developing their products building multiple physical prototypes – or miss effects that cannot be discovered using traditional product development methods. As a result, these innovative companies risk being slower to market or only partially fulfilling their bold product promises.

ANSYS has been committed to helping small and large companies innovate since its inception and the ANSYS Startup Program, formally launched today, aims to benefit the tens of thousands of small companies around the world by giving them virtually free access to ANSYS' leading suite of engineering simulation products.

"It's incredibly valuable for a small business like mine to have access to this kind of professional toolkit," said Robert Lumley, founder and CEO of AirLoom Energy, one of the program's initial members. "Not only has ANSYS software helped answer key product-development questions, but it's given me the credibility to win funding. I recently received a research grant from the National Science Foundation, and a key element of my proposal was ANSYS simulation results showing my idea is feasible in the real world."

"The startup program at ANSYS has helped me access a world-class simulation tool that is invaluable in our product development efforts," said Mohammed El-Kurdi, co-founder and director of research at Neograft, a healthcare startup.

"These startup companies are creating cutting-edge products that can change the way we think or do things," said Paul Lethbridge, senior manager of the ANSYS Startup Program. "Entrepreneurs typically invest their time and energy into an idea because they believe it can change the world. ANSYS is no different, we believe simulation can change the world, by helping them succeed."

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Cadence Opens New Facility in Bengaluru

15 September 2016

Cadence Design Systems today announced the inauguration of its new, world-class office space at RMZ EcoWorld Business Park on Sarjapur Outer Ring Road in Bengaluru. Over 700 employees work in the new office; it is Cadence's second largest site in India after Noida, and the third largest globally.

Teams at the Bangalore site are primarily involved in IP R&D, core electronic design automation (EDA) R&D, customer-facing activities and global IT support.

Speaking on the occasion of the inauguration, Cadence® President and CEO Lip-Bu Tan said, "Cadence was one of the first companies to set up operations in India almost 30 years ago. The India operations have contributed significantly to all of Cadence's technology verticals, and we continue to grow our presence here. The availability of world-class talent and proximity to customers make the Bengaluru office an important one for Cadence. I look forward to more growth, innovation and success in India."

Jaswinder Ahuja, corporate vice president and managing director, Cadence India, added, "The new

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office in Bengaluru is a significant milestone in Cadence's India journey. Cadence has always believed in being close to customers and, to that end, Bengaluru is an important site for Cadence worldwide, considering the number of semiconductor companies located in the city. This facility, where all the teams are co-located under one roof, provides an ideal environment to stimulate a culture of collaboration and innovation, and will help cement our position as a great place to work in India."

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CD-adapco Partners with Spike Aerospace to Develop Next Generation of Supersonic Business Jets

13 September 2016

CD-adapco, a Siemens business, is partnering with Spike Aerospace to develop the Spike S-512 Supersonic Jet, a state-of-the-art aircraft that promises to reduce flying times by half, through the use of its computer aided engineering software tool, STAR-CCM+®.

CD-adapco joins Maya Simulation in partnering with Spike Aerospace as they attempt to make the next generation of supersonic business jets a reality. Recognizing the importance of aerodynamics for performance, design, and the ability to reduce sonic boom, Spike Aerospace believes STAR-CCM+ is the most efficient and effective engineering simulation software tool for this project. This application will be highlighted during a September 22 complimentary webinar titled "Designing the Next Generation of Supersonic Business Jets with Low to No Sonic Boom."

Vik Kachoria, President and CEO of Spike Aerospace, said, "STAR-CCM+ is critical in any aerodynamic aircraft project as it has a number of tools that can help optimize the shape of the aircraft to minimize fuel burn, ensure stability and help the aircraft reach the performance goals we want to reach."

Once the Spike S-512 is fully functional and cleared for takeoff in the early 2020s, it is expected to revolutionize business travel. The duration of routes such as New York to London and London to Dubai will be halved, enabling business travelers to better allocate their time and resources.

"The importance of the aerodynamics is clearly evident in the additional time savings provided in the design stage of the vessel," said Durrell Rittenberg, CD-adapco Director of Aerospace and Defense. "There is also a tremendous benefit to being able to develop this project digitally. There aren't many supersonic wind tunnels, so the idea that this can be done on a computer highlights the importance of the digital twin concept."

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C-Sky Microsystems Joins the Electronic System Design Alliance

7 September 2016

C-Sky Microsystems today became a voting member of the Electronic System Design (ESD) Alliance, an international association of companies providing goods and services throughout the semiconductor design ecosystem.

As the first intellectual property (IP) company from China to join the ESD Alliance, C-Sky intends to become an active member of the Semiconductor IP Working Group, helping develop a common methodology and best practices for IP fingerprinting. Other initiatives of interest to C-Sky include the Multi-Die Working Group and the Market Statistics Service (MSS) as well.

"The ESD Alliance's broadened international reach and expanded focus to include IP is welcome news

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to C-Sky," notes Xiaolang Yan, C-Sky's chairman. "China's burgeoning semiconductor industry will benefit from an active and engaged organization that supports the entire design ecosystem worldwide. With a deep collaboration with Alibaba on YunOS YoC™ (Yun-on-Chip) in the Internet of Things, our goal is to be a contributing member of the Alliance to further develop international involvement."

"We welcome C-Sky Microsystems into the ESD Alliance and look forward to its participation in our committees," observes Bob Smith, the ESD Alliance's executive director. "The insights that Xiaolang Yan and others at C-Sky have on the rapidly growing semiconductor design ecosystem in China will offer us an invaluable perspective as we continue to grow our membership and expand our charter."

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HMS Industrial Networks Joins PTC's ThingWorx Partner program

12 September 2016

Available at the ThingWorx marketplace, the extension enables users to access data which is either stored in the Netbiter Argos cloud, or alternatively comes directly from field applications. In both cases, the data is forwarded from the field by industrial Netbiter gateways.

While the solution supports integration of existing Netbiter applications into the ThingWorx platform, it is primarily targeting device and machine OEMs looking for a way to get data from the field to perform analytics for purposes such as predictive maintenance. For these ThingWorx users, the Netbiter gateways act as edge gateways for connectivity to their applications in the field.

ThingWorx, the foundation of PTC's IIoT portfolio, allows customers to leverage ThingWatcher, ThingPredictor and ThingOptimizer to add deep analytics to their platform without a large R&D budget. The solution allows integration with cutting edge technology companies like glassbeam and splunk. Most importantly IoT solution providers like Bosch and Devicify can easily create mashups with Netbiter to meet their customer's needs.

"Thanks to the new ThingWorx extension for Netbiter, users will get the best of both worlds, since the solution combines HMS's experience in industrial communication and remote management with the leading ThingWorx IoT software platform. The solution ensures continuous and secure access to field data from the ThingWorx platform," says Henrik Arleving, Product Line Manager at HMS.

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KPMG Honored By Computerworld for Automation Platform

12 September 2016

KPMG has been named as a 2016 Computerworld Data+ Editors' Choice Award honoree in recognition of its digital labor automated platform, which is being used to help financial services institutions manage the massive amount of data needed to comply with new regulatory requirements. This honor recognizes innovative big data initiatives that have delivered significant business value.

"The Data+ Editors' Choice Award represents a notable validation of KPMG's work in digital labor," said Michael Henry, Advisory principal, KPMG LLP. "We have taken natural language processing, big data, machine learning and robotics and applied them to successfully solve real-world problems for our financial services clients."

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The Data+ Editors' Choice Awards honorees and their achievements will be highlighted in a special September feature on Computerworld.com.

"We're continually impressed with the new and inventive analytics projects at organizations big and small uncovered through our Data+ program," said Scot Finnie, editor in chief, Computerworld. "This year's winning organizations are at the forefront of applying data analytics to deliver both business and societal benefits."

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Kriatec Services Releases Unique e-Learning System for Engineers

15 September 2016

In what is believed to be a world first, Edgcam's Indian reseller, Kriatec Services, is partnering with a Government-funded skill training provider to launch an e-learning internet platform to bring technology-led training "to the masses."

After two years of development, Kriatec created a four-week e-learning programme with downloadable software, worked examples, and self-assessment examinations. They are now working with Government-funded training partner Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar in order to reach a mass market. CTTC have centres in India's leading industrial and development areas, training tens of thousands of young engineers each year.

Kriatec Director Ajitha Prabu says: "CTTC are unique, in that they not only provide conventional training, they also have large, modern and well-equipped production facilities for their students to engage in a real work experience, producing parts for some of the leading high technology companies in India."

It has been his long-standing ambition to use the internet to bring Edgcam training to a large number of students, and now, by partnering with CTTC Kriatec are aiming to train 1,000 students in the first year, growing to 10,000 by the fifth year.

When trainees complete the four-week e-learning course they enter to CTTC, Bhubaneswar Centre to undertake a period of practical training before deciding whether to continue onto to a full-time one-to-three-year course.

"This is certainly the only venture of its kind in India, and we think possibly globally, too, in that Kriatec and CTTC are bringing e-learning, conventional training and practical workplace experience together, in one seamless package."

And Sibasis Maity, Managing Director of CTTC, Bhubaneswar, India, says: "Our collaboration with Kriatec Services to provide an internet-based e-learning platform that delivers training of the world's leading CAM software, Edgcam, heralds a new, exciting, era in CTTC's training offering. To pioneer is to lead, and, yet again, CTTC sets the way for others to follow."

Vero's Business Development Manager Walter Wade says: "This unique initiative to introduce and train a vast audience of young engineers in the use of Edgcam will not only enhance their skills, but will also further strengthen Edgcam's position as one of the world's leading CAM solutions."

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Outscale Introduces Per-Second Billing to Boost Cloud Adoption

15 September 2016

Outscale, an IaaS Enterprise Class Cloud service provider and a strategic Partner of Dassault Systemes, introduces per-second billing. This announcement is a true breakthrough in the world of cloud computing. By paying only for the resources they use, companies and organizations can save hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, which frees up financial resources to invest in strategic projects and foster their growth. With this announcement, Outscale aims to provide more transparency to its customers and boost the transition to Cloud adoption.

“Thanks to billing per second, Outscale, leading provider of Enterprise-Class cloud service, is the first worldwide provider to offer pricing tailored to the Cloud usage of companies. We are convinced that this paradigm shift will make adopting the Cloud more convenient,” says Outscale’s President, Laurent Seror. He adds, “Unlike other main providers on the market, that are mostly comprised of e-business platforms, search engines or software editors, we are a pure player in the field. Because Cloud computing is our core business, we keep innovating to provide our customers with more transparency, proximity and agility.”

Currently, most Cloud services charge their customers by hour. As a result, companies’ yearly expenses are weighed down by thousands of unused yet charged hours. Outscale’s goal is to put an end to this waste and lack of transparency.

In the case of a virtual machine running for 11 minutes and 42 seconds, Outscale charges their customers 702 seconds, while Amazon Web Services charges a full hour. That’s 48 unused minutes and 18 unused seconds paid. Multiply this by the number of collaborators in an organization, and by the number of daily connections, you could end up paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more than you use every year.

As an example, one of Outscale’s clients, a web agency with a turnover of 9 million euros in 2015 and 80 collaborators, could dramatically lower its Cloud costs thanks to the per-second billing option. Outscale believes that transparency is the key, and customers should only pay for the resources they truly used.

This offer is available today in Europe, the Unites States and Asia.

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SwainSmith Joins Infor Partner Network

14 September 2016

SwainSmith, Inc. today announced it has joined the Infor Partner Network (IPN), a global network designed to provide the tools and resources necessary to grow a profitable and sustainable business around Infor products. SwainSmith will focus on delivering Infor EAM Enterprise to manufacturing customers across North America.

"Our clients are seeking an enterprise-grade software solution that will enable them to access rich and actionable asset management information across the organization," said Tracy Smith, president, SwainSmith. "The industry-specific functionality and innovative user experience offered by Infor EAM, combined with our expertise in asset management best practices and our proven library of codes and data conventions, will equip customers with applications that are flexible and built to specifically

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

address their asset management challenges."

Channel partners are a critical part of Infor's accelerated growth strategy and objectives because they enable progress in all regions of the globe and play a key role in the company's success. SwainSmith will directly contribute to the success of the IPN by combining Infor EAM with Synergy TM, a proven organizational model for physical asset management. Synergy will provide customers with ISO-centric industry standards, and other resources, ensuring that every customer's EAM system is founded on rock-solid proven practices. The combination of Infor EAM and Synergy, supported by SwainSmith's deep domain expertise in physical asset management and EAM software systems, will provide clients with the tools they need to improve asset management operations.

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Zero Wait-State Announces Preferred Partnership with Perception Software

14 September 2016

Zero Wait-State today announced a new preferred partnership with Perception Software, creating a unique family of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) services and solutions that allow Oracle Agile PLM customers the ability to unlock and reuse all of the product data their PLM system maintains. The partnership will leverage the strengths of both companies to provide easy-to-maintain-and-upgrade PLM system process automations and customizations. This gives users the opportunity to tailor their PLM system to work the way they need it to work for their specific business, which greatly expands Agile PLM's capabilities received out-of-the-box.

Zero Wait-State will provide implementation services and utilize two of their exclusive products – AttributeState and RestState – alongside Perceptions's enhanced AgileXPLOER to address their customers' toughest business issues around innovation, cost, quality and time to market. Dries D'hooghe, Vice President of Products and Services for Zero Wait-State said, "Given the direction of our current product development initiatives around enhancing PLM through customization tools that are easy to use and not hard coded, the new version of AgileXPLOER is a great fit for our clients, providing additional ROI on their Agile PLM investment."

Stephen Porter, founder and CEO of Zero Wait-State, commented, "It's exciting that two organizations can align for the best interest of their clients. Extending the life of their PLM tool is challenging, especially as their organizations move to a hybrid on premise and cloud PLM solution. With the lack of common standards around the "Internet of Things" (IOT), we're going to see a fragmented industry that hinders the movement from achieving PLM's full potential. A partnership like this becomes increasingly critical for our customers' success."

Perception Software, which of note was recently acquired as a business unit of Altium Software, is equally enthusiastic about the new partnership. Joe Dalton, founder and CEO of Perception Software, added, "We are excited about adding AgileXplorer to ZWS's suite of offerings to the Oracle/Agile installed base. The ability to improve and extend the ROI of a company's Agile PLM investment is very attractive, and this partnership will help deliver that."

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Events News

Aras Announces ACE 2016 Europe – Registration Now Open

8 September 2016

Aras® today announced registration is now open for the 7th annual ACE Europe conference. The event will be held in Berlin, Germany on November 8 – 9, 2016. Details and free registration at <http://www.aras.com/ace2016europe>

The conference brings together industry and technology leaders to connect and collaborate on strategies to address the growing complexity in global product development, systems engineering, manufacturing, quality and the supply chain.

With its community-based format, the ACE global series offers an open learning environment for everyone, from companies expanding Aras, to businesses that are just starting a PLM initiative or replacing a legacy PLM or PDM system.

Topics Include:

- Systems Engineering and MBSE in conjunction with PLM
- ALM / PLM Integration
- Product Development and Supply Chain Collaboration
- Integrated Technical Publications

ACE 2016 Europe Details:

Date: November 8 - 9

Location: Berlin, Germany

Cost: Free to Attend - Registration is required

Agenda and Free Registration: <http://www.aras.com/ace2016europe>

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Aras to Present at Institute of Configuration Management 2016 CMII/IPE Symposium in Las Vegas

13 September 2016

Aras® today announced the company will present at the 2016 CMII/IPE Symposium annual conference hosted by the Institute of Configuration Management. Taking place September 19 - 20 in Las Vegas, Nevada, product development leaders convene to address the event theme of “Process to PLM – The CMII Journey.” The 29th annual event highlights specific topics in product design requirements, process definitions, and configuration management.

The presentation by David Ewing Jr., Product Marketing Manager of Aras, is entitled “Configuration Management and the Business of Engineering” and outlines the challenges of today’s product landscape in the face of increasing product complexity and connectivity. The presentation makes the case that in today’s product landscape, systems-level thinking is a must-have capability. Winning product teams will build profitable, well-received products only with an all-encompassing vision that addresses the Business of Engineering. Attendees will see first-hand how Configuration Management provides the

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foundation for a flexible PLM system that enables innovation and connects the enterprise.

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Dassault Systemes Announces 3DEXPERIENCE FORUM Italy 2016

13 September 2016

A new business model is emerging in today's connected society in which consumers' expect instantaneous answers, delightful experiences and simplicity. To help create these experiences for customers, Dassault Systèmes has created a Business Experience Platform, available on premise and in the public or private cloud.

Dassault Systèmes extends the invitation to discover Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE Platform by attending the 3DEXPERIENCE FORUM in Italy.

“Dassault Systèmes believes so strongly in the power of connecting people, ideas, solutions and data that we have built a truly inclusive Business Platform that transforms the way IT platforms are perceived. We have created a new species of platform designed to position each of our customers in the Age of Experience,” said Monica Menghini, Executive Vice President- Chief Strategy Officer.

The 3DEXPERIENCE FORUM Italy will take place on October 13, 2016 in Milan.

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Denso to Showcase Products Supporting Entire Vehicle Lifecycle at Automechanika 2016

12 September 2016

Global automotive supplier Denso Corporation and Denso Europe BV is going to exhibit latest product innovations and wide range of lineup of aftermarket products at the Automechanika Frankfurt 2016 to be held at the Messe Frankfurt in Germany from September 13-17.

This year, Denso will exhibit in a larger area to have more interaction with guests, and to offer more comfortable space to see the full range of its main aftermarket products such as variety of Spark Plugs including Iridium TT Spark Plugs, Cabin Air Filters, Car Airconditioner parts, Wiper Blades, and O2 Sensors.

Denso will support the entire life cycle of the vehicles by supplying the high quality service parts as well as the reliable service.

Automechanika is the world's biggest trade fair for the automobile aftermarket.

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Keynotes Announced for COMSOL Conference 2016 Boston on Multiphysics Simulation

14 September 2016

The organizers of COMSOL Conference 2016 Boston are proud to announce this year's keynote speakers. The COMSOL Conference is held worldwide in seven major cities. It attracts thousands of engineers and scientists with its focus on multiphysics simulation and application design. The first event

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is taking place in Boston on October 5-7 and features the following line up of distinguished modeling and simulation professionals:

- Bernard McGarvey, senior engineering advisor at Eli Lilly and Company: KEYNOTE: Leveraging Modeling and First Principles Thinking to Accelerate Improvement at a Pharmaceutical Company
- Edward P. Furlani, professor in the Departments of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Electrical Engineering at University at Buffalo (UB) SUNY: KEYNOTE: Multiphysics and Multiscale Simulations: Advancing Basic Science and Industrial Applications
- Carl Meinhart, professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California – Santa Barbara (UCSB) and founder and CEO of Numerical Design, Inc.: KEYNOTE: Transport Processes in Microfluidics
- Sebastien Perrier, R&D acoustical engineer at Echologics Engineering: KEYNOTE: The Effect of Local Resonators on Sound Propagation in Fluid-Filled Pipes

The COMSOL Conference brings together engineers, researchers, and scientists worldwide throughout seven locations, providing them with the chance to showcase their work, share innovative technologies and best practices, as well as the opportunity to interact with the members of the COMSOL community.

The 2016 conference will feature presentations on simulation apps using the Application Builder and the COMSOL Server™ product.

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Optomec to Showcase Affordable Production Systems for 3D Printed Metals at the IMTS Conference

12 September 2016

Optomec announced today that they will demonstrate the latest advancements and solution in production grade additive manufacturing systems at the International Manufacturing Technology Show this week. Highlighting its exhibition will be live demonstrations of an affordable hybrid CNC system that combines Optomec LENS technology for 3D printed metals with subtractive milling technology in a single machine tool. The IMTS Conference will be held from September 12-17 at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL.

Optomec is offering a variety of opportunities to learn about the latest breakthroughs in additive manufacturing and interact with technology experts, users and partners. Optomec will host presentations at general and private IMTS sessions daily.

IMTS is the largest display and demonstration show of global manufacturing technology in the Western Hemisphere.

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Financial News

Oracle Corporation Announces Fiscal 2017 Q1 Results

15 September 2016

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

Oracle Corporation today announced fiscal 2017 Q1 results. Total Revenues were \$8.6 billion, up 2% in U.S. dollars and up 3% in constant currency. Cloud plus On-Premise Software Revenues were \$6.8 billion, up 5% in U.S. dollars and up 6% in constant currency. Cloud software as a service (SaaS) and platform as a service (PaaS) revenues were \$798 million, up 77% in U.S. dollars and up 79% in constant currency. Total Cloud Revenues, including infrastructure as a service (IaaS), were \$969 million, up 59% in U.S. dollars and up 61% in constant currency. Operating Income was \$2.6 billion and Operating Margin was 31%. Non-GAAP Operating Income was \$3.4 billion and non-GAAP Operating Margin was 39%. Net Income was \$1.8 billion while non-GAAP Net Income was \$2.3 billion. Earnings Per Share was up 10% to \$0.43, while non-GAAP Earnings Per Share was up 4% to \$0.55. GAAP and non-GAAP Earnings Per Share was negatively impacted by three factors: 1 cent because of a higher tax rate due to more cloud sales being in the U.S, half of one cent because of borrowing, and 1 cent due to strengthening of the U.S. dollar.

Short-term deferred revenues were \$9.5 billion, up 4% in U.S. dollars and up 5% in constant currency compared with a year ago. Operating cash flow on a trailing twelve-month basis was \$13.7 billion.

"Our Cloud business plus our On-Premise Software business grew 7% in constant currency in the first quarter, on a non-GAAP basis," said Oracle CEO, Safra Catz. "The overall top-line growth of our two strategic businesses was driven by non-GAAP SaaS and PaaS revenue growing 82% in constant currency, substantially outperforming our guidance. As our SaaS and PaaS business continues its rapid growth, we expect its gross margins to climb from 62% this quarter toward our 80% target."

"This year we are on track to sell more than \$2 billion of SaaS and PaaS annually recurring revenue," said Oracle CEO, Mark Hurd. "We believe this will be the second year in a row that Oracle has sold more SaaS and PaaS than any cloud services provider. In the first quarter alone, we added more than 750 new SaaS customers including 344 new SaaS Fusion ERP customers – that's more ERP customers than Workday has sold in the history of their company."

"Next week at Oracle OpenWorld, we will introduce the second generation of our Infrastructure as a Service," said Larry Ellison, Oracle Chairman and CTO. "Our Generation2 IaaS delivers twice the compute, twice the memory, four times the storage and ten times more I/O at a 20% lower price than Amazon Web Services. IaaS represents a huge new cloud opportunity for Oracle to layer on top of our rapidly growing SaaS and PaaS businesses."

[Read the full report here.](#)

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Implementation Investments

Bill Levkoff Selects BlueCherry To Support Its Unique Bridesmaid Dress Business

8 September 2016

CGS today announced that Bill Levkoff, a distributor of bridesmaid and formal dresses, selected BlueCherry® Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and BlueCherry B2B eCommerce. Bill Levkoff will benefit from the front-end order entry option to help simplify customer product choices and provide visibility while tracking its sample distribution to various store types.

Bill Levkoff offers its bridesmaids dresses to over 1,500 retailers in the United States and Canada; and offers these dresses in multiple styles, in addition to fabrics, lengths and colors within each style.

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Providing the customer with customizable choices differentiates Bill Levkoff from its competition, providing a strategic advantage.

To improve its visibility and distribution operations, Bill Levkoff was seeking a solution that provides real-time enterprise-wide visibility to replace its homegrown, in-house application, enabling easy order entry for its retail partners. Bill Levkoff selected BlueCherry ERP because of its capability to connect core business functions through an integrated supported platform and provide real-time visibility into the product lifecycle throughout the supply chain.

“Although our legacy system got us to where we are today, it was apparent that we needed to have a fully supported software solution that could be perpetually upgraded to allow for streamlined, automated processes to grow the business,” said Joe Pezzola, Information Systems Director at Bill Levkoff. “CGS understands our business needs, as well as our customers’ expectations. They showed us what they do for others in the apparel industry and we knew they were the perfect partner to go with.”

“We understand the unique challenge Bill Levkoff faces in providing customized dresses in a range of styles to a long list of retailers,” said Paul Magel, president, Business Applications and Technology Outsourcing Division, CGS. “One of the most important elements of a successful distributor is fulfilling orders to the retailer in a timely manner. We are excited to welcome Bill Levkoff to our BlueCherry community and help the company streamline processes by providing a single source of critical data, arming its team with a clear view of sample and customer order status while enabling easy order entry for retailers through BlueCherry B2B.”

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Lancaster Selects Centric Software PLM

13 September 2016

Lancaster has chosen Centric 8 PLM to help revitalize its processes and to support growth opportunities in new markets. Lancaster produces 1.5 million products per year and enjoys a global presence in 60 countries through 1,000 stores.

Making passion for leather and that sense of Parisian style available further afield represented a challenge for Tony Jean Rose, PLM Project Manager, and the design and development teams at Lancaster's Paris headquarters. "To achieve our objective of exponential growth, particularly in Asia and the USA, we needed to simplify our processes in line with best practices, improve supply chain collaboration, and find opportunities to synergize sourcing between the Sequoia and Lancaster brands," explains Rose.

To support that multi-national, multi-brand perspective on collection and product development, Lancaster began a comprehensive PLM selection process, employing the services of an independent advisor in order to select the best possible partner.

"We wanted to reach multiple markets more quickly – all without compromising quality, affordability, or the essential identity of the brand," says Rose.

"Centric has an impressive reputation in the luxury sector," Rose continues. "Its consultants and developers understand the demand for continuous evolution, from one collection to the next. By challenging Centric we challenged ourselves and we discovered an opportunity to benefit from their experience. In parallel with implementing the Centric 8 PLM platform, we now intend to re-organize our processes to take advantage of their teams' expertise."

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In addition to better connecting with suppliers, Lancaster will also empower its designers and developers with key applications from Centric's mobile suite, such as Capture it, Material Sample and Product Notes on Android, allowing users to quickly create a collaborative and contemporaneous source of images and other product data.

"Making the most of PLM involves more than just reducing defects, slimming cycle times and establishing leaner processes," says Chris Groves, Centric Software CEO. "Lancaster will be able to secure its reputation for affordable luxury through proven practices, as well as laying the technological foundations for growth without compromise."

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Lectra Technology to be Featured in Under Armour's New Manufacturing and Design Center

13 September 2016

Lectra is pleased to announce that US-based global performance brand Under Armour has chosen Lectra as an official partner for its manufacturing and design center, the UA Lighthouse, which opened on June 28 in Baltimore, Maryland. The new facility will showcase the latest technology and serve as an incubator for creating state-of-the-art product with efficient manufacturing methods.

The 35,000 square-foot UA Lighthouse will provide a collaborative space for designers and manufacturers to learn and develop new and innovative methods for making and delivering product, which can then be shared with global teammates and partner factories.

A proud partner of the Lighthouse project, Lectra shares Under Armour's commitment to helping manufacturers and brands attain operational excellence and deliver better products to market faster. The Lighthouse will employ Lectra's advanced cutting-room solutions, in particular, the Brio fabric spreader and the Vector® fabric-cutting machine. Vector is empowered by Lectra's innovative Smart Services, which provides enhanced visibility to the production processes through remote monitoring. This predictive technology optimizes machine up-time and production.

"This partnership is the start of what we hope will be a long and fruitful relationship between two like-minded global companies. Our technology is very much in line with where Under Armour wants to take manufacturing. As a company that also strives to push the boundaries of innovation, we applaud the leadership Under Armour has shown and we are honored to be involved in the launch of such an ambitious project," says Jason Adams, President, Lectra North America.

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Leybold Selects aPriori for Sourcing Efficiencies

7 September 2016

aPriori, a provider of product cost management (PCM) software solutions, has been selected by Leybold GmbH. The company will use aPriori's software to benchmark costs for both outsourced and manufactured products and parts, and to support fact-based negotiation with its suppliers.

Leybold is a pioneer in the vacuum technology business. Its products include vacuum pumps, systems, gauges, leak detecting instruments and other parts used in every-day systems such as air conditioning, TV-tubes, automotive applications, metallurgy and furnaces. The company's products also support high-tech processes such as the coating of microchips, CDs and DVDs, and the manufacturing of optical glass

and analytical instruments.

Initially, Leybold will deploy the software at its Cologne headquarters facility in Germany with plans to extend use to its other plants. The aPriori product cost management platform will provide Leybold's sourcing and cost estimation teams with real-time cost information on parts and complete products from the earliest stages of design. The software leverages CAD and intelligent cost models to quickly determine the most efficient manufacturing methods and product costs while generating detailed manufacturing analysis and cost estimates that quantify the impact of changes to product design, materials, manufacturing processes, volumes and location in real time. The software will also provide Leybold's sourcing teams with valuable, fact-based cost information as it works with its suppliers to determine the most efficient materials and manufacturing processes and evaluates make vs. buy decisions.

"It can be difficult for manufacturers to understand all the key cost impacts in a supplier's business without access to their cost structures," said Stephanie Feraday, president and CEO of aPriori.

"Leveraging our highly detailed global costing models and costing capability, Leybold gains a new level of visibility that they can put to immediate use to drive greater product cost efficiencies and faster cycle times. It's a powerful advantage for their business."

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Linde Engineering North America Inc. (LENA) Standardizes on AspenTech Estimating and Expands Use of AspenTech Process Safety Software

12 September 2016

Aspen Technology, Inc. today announced that Linde Engineering North America Inc. (LENA) has standardized on Aspen Capital Cost Estimator (ACCE) estimating technology.

AspenTech's Aspen Capital Cost Estimator (ACCE) empowers estimators with cutting-edge technology that enables them to rapidly and confidently evaluate capital investment projects early in the design process, understand all the economic implications of engineering decisions and manage projects more profitably.

LENA selected ACCE and extended its use throughout the organization due to the ability of the software to keep projects on schedule and within budget, improve safety performance, and achieve the highest standards of operational excellence. The flexibility and adaptability offered by the aspenONE® Engineering environment was a key factor in LENA's decision, as was the ability of AspenTech's economic evaluation solutions to consistently allow engineering companies to increase their incomes by up to 50 percent compared to traditional approaches.

In addition, the company expanded its use of AspenTech's Process Safety software, which allows Engineering, Procurement & Construction Companies (EPCs) to efficiently conduct safety studies, including pressure safety valve sizing, flare system design and rating, and dynamic analysis for start-up, shutdown, emergencies and compressor surge, all while using simulation data from Aspen HYSYS® and Aspen Plus®.

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Product News

Accenture and SAP Launch Collaboration to Redesign Fashion Management

12 September 2016

Accenture and SAP launched an initiative to extend SAP's current fashion management capabilities to a next-generation fashion management solution that will be designed to accelerate the digital transformation journey for fashion, accessory and luxury retail brands. The announcement comes after both companies announced in January a comprehensive program of ongoing collaboration on the core development and go-to-market for SAP S/4HANA®.

Accenture will help bring this vision to life in an in-memory edition of the solution, which plans to enable vertical integration across retail, wholesale and manufacturing channels.

“SAP and Accenture bring a culture of co-innovation to the table that has allowed us to collectively innovate and accelerate our development road map. The new solutions we are creating show a committed investment in our clients' future success,” said Achim Schneider, global head, Retail Industry Business Unit, SAP.

The next-generation fashion management solution aims to take advantage of the technology capabilities of SAP S/4HANA, the flexibility of cloud services and Accenture's deep retail industry knowledge. It is expected to help retailers build omnichannel solutions that manage inventory requirements more easily and effectively, and accelerate time-to-value to enable a customer-centric business. Retailers should be able to simultaneously view and manage retail, wholesale and manufacturing channels, allowing them to analyze and direct where and how products are stocked based on specific business rules.

“Retail demands speed – whether interacting with customers, bringing new products to market, expanding into new geographies, integrating merged companies or driving operational efficiencies. Working to extend SAP S/4HANA to the fashion industry is the first of many planned actions in our collaboration,” said Jill Standish, Senior Managing Director of Retail at Accenture. “Together, we combine the best thinking, IP and experts at all levels, including development, go-to-market, customer support and outcomes. With our access to the platform code for SAP S/4HANA and our deep retail delivery capabilities, we are well-positioned to help retailers drive the most business value from SAP solutions and meet the unique needs of their industry now and in the future.”

In addition to building out core components, Accenture is working with SAP to create proprietary product extensions. With the help of Accenture, the next-generation fashion management solution from SAP will offer a truly vertical solution via end-to-end scenario integration across the extended retail supply chain. SAP S/4HANA enables game-changing new processes such as multichannel material requirements planning and order allocation with the ability to simulate scenarios that allow fashion organizations to effectively and efficiently run their businesses.

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AccuMark Subscription Plan Gives Greater Accessibility to Industry-Leading CAD for Designers

15 September 2016

Gerber Technology is proud to announce that AccuMark® is now available as a monthly subscription plan. The plan is offered in 3-month subscription increments.

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Making AccuMark available on a subscription basis eliminates the barrier of up-front costs. So companies of all sizes can access the industry's leading CAD design, grading, marker making and production planning software, making it possible to bring their designs to market faster.

Mary McFadden, executive director, CAD Product Management at Gerber Technology said, "We are thrilled to announce the introduction of AccuMark offered as a subscription. With lower up-front costs, companies of all sizes can take advantage of the industry-leading CAD software and enjoy the full functionality of AccuMark with product support."

One of the challenges in the fashion industry is seasonality. With a 3-month renewable subscription to AccuMark, companies can now expand their AccuMark seats without paying for another enterprise seat that is only used for a portion of a year.

McFadden continued, "Companies can accommodate seasonal demands and requirements through shorter commitment durations with full access to AccuMark during their subscription. This new subscription plan offers expanded accessibility and user flexibility."

The introduction of AccuMark as a subscription coincides with the release of AccuMark 10.2 that brings along improvements to its 3D capabilities and AccuPlan™. Additionally, AccuPlan now imports work orders from ERP systems, streamlining overall garment workflow.

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Autodesk Adds Cloud-Based Product Data Management to Fusion Lifecycle

15 September 2016

At this week's Accelerate 2016 conference in Boston, Autodesk is taking the wraps off a major addition to Fusion Lifecycle: cloud-based product data management (PDM). With the addition of PDM, Fusion Lifecycle now covers the entire concept-to-market workflow, making it the first end-to-end PLM solution in the cloud.

The new cloud-based product data management (Cloud PDM) functionality is built directly into Fusion Lifecycle and is available immediately. Cloud PDM enables engineers to collaborate on designs and manage their work-in-process CAD data and documents. Teams can effectively collaborate on designs, track versions and releases, and connect to manufacturing workflows for more effective sharing of design data across the enterprise.

"We have been avid users of Fusion Lifecycle for over a year, and it has greatly improved our product development process. Albeit, this is the piece we've really been waiting to utilize. The full PLM solution, in the cloud, will dramatically improve our efficiency," said Brian Hunter, Quality Control Manager of NovaCentrix.

Other additions coming to the Fusion portfolio to better equip manufacturers to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive marketplace include:

- Fusion Connect – Fusion Connect will provide Dynamic Predictive Analytics, powered by technology from Nutonian. While industrial IoT will comprise 16% of global GDP by 2020, making sense of the unprecedented volume of data is a challenge that typically requires data scientists to derive actionable business insights. Coming as a future option for Fusion Connect customers, Nutonian's Eureka, an Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) modeling engine, automatically extracts meaning from large data sets and delivers prescriptive solutions. This enables

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forecasting of product equipment failure with exceptional accuracy. This foresight can drive an evolution of operations, new services and ultimately create a competitive advantage.

“As we continually enhance our cloud capabilities, the logical next step was broadening and deepening our IoT predictive and prescriptive solutions,” said Bryan Kester, director of IoT, Autodesk. “We evaluated the A.I. and machine learning ecosystem and found Nutonian has numerous, vast advantages that enable us to deliver a one-of-a-kind IoT analytics service.”

- Fusion Configure – Coming soon to the platform, Fusion Configure will add enterprise CPQ (configure, price, quote) functionality for manufacturers who design and build configurable, multi-option, and customizable products. Manufacturers are seeing greater demand for more personalized and tailored products, and they need the ability to design and manufacture with much greater customization in order to grow and remain competitive in their industries. Fusion Configure will enable companies to configure, price and quote the most complex products in minutes by automating the way they sell and process orders for customizable products.

Because the Fusion product innovation platform is cloud-based, there is no hardware to install, and no expensive upgrades to implement. Manufacturers get a low total cost of ownership and mobility – engineers can access their design data from anywhere, so progress doesn’t stop when someone is out of the office.

“Traditionally, product development has required multiple disconnected software tools, often resulting in a cumbersome, slow and expensive process. We are determined to fix this and improve the way products are designed, made and used,” said Lisa Campbell, vice president, manufacturing industry strategy and marketing, Autodesk. “Today’s additions to the Fusion product innovation platform will take us – and our customers – much further along that journey to a new and better future of making things.”

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Autodesk Introduces Portfolio for the Future of Manufacturing

13 September 2016

With the world of manufacturing undergoing major disruptions brought on by new market forces and technologies, Autodesk unveiled its portfolio of solutions for additive and subtractive manufacturing. The portfolio lets manufacturers take advantage of technology disruptions and improve competitiveness by creating higher quality products in less time with lower costs.

The new solution brings together products historically offered from Autodesk, Delcam, Netfabb, Pan Computing and Magestic Systems into one complete set of hybrid manufacturing solutions.

“Autodesk has long been a leader and innovator in 3D design, engineering and the technologies that expand the applications of industrial 3D printing, but we appreciate that no product is really complete until it’s realized through physical manufacture,” said Amar Hanspal, senior vice president of products at Autodesk. “We’ve also become a leader in technologies that expand the applications of industrial 3D printing. Now, we’re truly integrating the design, make and use phases of product development. This new set of solutions goes big on the ‘make’ component—equipping manufacturers with all the software they need to go from digital design to real-world product.”

Unveiled at the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS 2016), the portfolio spans computer aided manufacturing (CAM), additive manufacturing, composites, robotics fabrication, factory

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layout, inspection and modeling. It enables customers to solve complex manufacturing challenges and seamlessly connect design to machining.

Within the portfolio offerings are cloud-connected capabilities designed to help users experience the benefits of a more cohesive manufacturing workflow and invest more time in product development. Cloud-capabilities give customers improved support for global manufacturing operations with universal access to software and data, and the cloud also enables fast and frequent software upgrades.

What's in the Autodesk manufacturing portfolio?

- Autodesk HSMWorks: A fully integrated CAM solution for SOLIDWORKS, allowing users to get up to speed and become productive within minutes using familiar tools and workflows.
- Autodesk Inventor HSM: Helps CNC programmers, designers and engineers rapidly produce machined parts designed in virtually any CAD system.
- Autodesk 2017 CAM Products: With offerings for a multitude of advanced manufacturing applications, these new products combine the heritage of industry leadership in CAM software from Delcam with Autodesk's 3D design and manufacturing prowess. Solutions include FeatureCAM for automating CNC programming; PartMaker for precision part manufacturing with Swiss-type lathes; PowerMill for programming the most complex molds, dies and other components; PowerShape for preparing complex models for manufacture; and PowerInspect for inspection in every environment.
- Autodesk Netfabb: All the software you need to reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve part performance in additive manufacturing and 3D printing.
- Fusion 360: The centerpiece of Autodesk's cloud-based product innovation platform, Fusion 360 combines CAD, CAM and CAE in a single package. It allows users to take their designs all the way to production with included 3D printing capabilities as well as HSM powered toolpath technology for 2 through 5 axis milling machines, turning centers and waterjets.

“Not only is the Netfabb bundle easy to use, it also does much of the heavy lifting in preparing models for 3D printing,” said Dan Ko, strategic initiatives lead at Shapeways. “The software streamlines the process of fixing common 3D print file problems and if we didn't have it to automate a large portion of file preparation process, each build would be substantially more time consuming and labor intensive.”

“This new integrated portfolio from Autodesk brings together technology Autodesk has been growing and investing in across the full manufacturing spectrum,” said Hanspal. “This combination of solutions makes modular and scalable manufacturing solutions available to manufacturers of all sizes.”

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Bamboo Rose Releases Rose Clipper to Spark New Ideas

9 September 2016

Bamboo Rose announces Rose Clipper, a new clipping tool for securely capturing and sharing images that inspire product designers, retail merchants and product developers. Bamboo Rose members will be able to easily clip and save photos from the web directly to the Bamboo Rose platform, instantly sharing ideas with their teams and communities as they develop products.

“To thrive in today's retail economy, retailers and suppliers need to stay ahead of trends and be able to

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develop big ideas they can share across their retail community, while protecting their intellectual property which is too often stored in disparate technologies like Pinterest, Instagram and Box,” said Sue Welch, chief executive officer of Bamboo Rose. “We’ve developed Rose Clipper to help teams capture their ideas and inspirations better, so they can focus on what matters most to their business: making great products.”

Rose Clipper is a Chrome browser extension for Bamboo Rose members, meaning you can easily capture the images that inspire you right as you’re looking at them on the web. You just simply clip it, select the inspiration list you’d like to save to, and your image is stored directly in your Bamboo Rose Marketplace account. Rose Clipper helps you easily create a library of images for product inspiration that you can immediately share with your community.

Rose Clipper was developed with customer feedback in mind and is designed with intellectual property protection elements to help teams quickly and safely share their ideas and concepts with colleagues. In the past, retail product designers relied on saving photos and ideas to individual devices, which made organizing ideas difficult, or they used public tools, such as Pinterest, that risked exposing ideas to competitors. Rose Clipper offers a safer alternative for developing big ideas for products, while still delivering the convenience and ease of use that competing tools provide.

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Chaos Group Releases Phoenix FD 3.0 for Autodesk 3ds Max

15 September 2016

Today, Chaos Group announces a major new release of its versatile, all-in-one fluid dynamics plugin, Phoenix FD 3.0 for 3ds Max. Frequently used to simulate realistic water, fire, and other fluid effects for multiple television series such as Game of Thrones and The Flash, Phoenix FD has been significantly upgraded for fast-paced productions. With its new FLIP liquid solver and improved smoke and fire solver, Phoenix FD is now more powerful and able to bring more realism to visual effects projects.

Phoenix FD 3.0 for 3ds Max has been given a full makeover, with new intuitive controls, presets and GPU-accelerated previews, making it a fast and easy way to tackle tight deadlines. The new Phoenix FD integrates seamlessly into Autodesk 3ds Max and renders with V-Ray, Chaos Group’s industry-standard, lighting and rendering solution.

“Phoenix FD is like a Swiss Army knife for effects. It can handle everything from flaming arrows and drops of water to erupting volcanoes or an armada of ships,” said Svetlin Nikolov, Phoenix FD Team Lead at Chaos Group. “It’s a handy tool that is fast and easy to use without being overly technical.”

"Phoenix FD is our go-to tool for fluid simulations," said Joern Grosshans, VFX Supervisor at Mackevision. "When working on the new season of 'Game of Thrones', we needed the wakes coming off the CG ships to look as realistic as possible. Phoenix FD proved to be reliable, fast, and seamlessly integrated into 3ds Max. It was exactly what we needed."

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Fujitsu Expands Lineup of Palm Vein Authentication Products for Embedding into Equipment

12 September 2016

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Fujitsu Limited and Fujitsu Frontech Limited today announced the addition of two new products - the FUJITSU Biometric Authentication PalmSecure-F Pro, which is a sensor that can be embedded into equipment, and the FUJITSU Biometric Authentication Palm Vein Authentication Board to their line of palm vein authentication devices. Sales of the new products will commence in late October.

In addition to dramatically easing the conditions for installation and usage environment by improving operability and environmental tolerance, and becoming slimmer, PalmSecure-F Pro features greater identification accuracy, and provides greater functionality for identifying individuals from among a huge database of registered palm vein data.

In addition, offering the Palm Vein Authentication Board with embedded software enables application to devices with embedded-type operating systems, which had been previously difficult.

As a result, whereas applications had previously centered on PC login and room access devices, scenarios for use can now be expanded to such equipment as multifunction copiers, vaults, and lockers, allowing companies to standardize their internal authentication method with palm vein authentication. Fujitsu and Fujitsu Frontech will also seek to grow their presence into new markets, such as using palm vein authentication for "walletless" payments in lieu of cash or credit cards, or as an alternative to keys for residences or vehicles.

Background

In recent years, to prevent damage caused by information leaks and identity fraud, biometric authentication technologies are becoming more prevalent. Among these technologies, palm vein authentication, which reads the pattern of veins in the palm, offers the benefits of being highly accurate and difficult to forge, with superior authentication performance. These features are why it is used by over 70 million people around the world in such applications as verifying customer identity at a bank ATM, for PC access management in companies, and for room access management.

Excellent authentication accuracy and convenience have led to rising demand to embed palm vein authentication in a variety of equipment, with needs to expand the number of operating systems that can run it, and to enhance environment tolerance, such as to temperature extremes and sunlight.

About the Two New Products

While maintaining support for the vein templates of PalmSecure Sensor V2(1), available since 2010, PalmSecure-F Pro is more compact, has improved operability, and greater tolerance to sunlight. These enhancements make it possible to overcome size and sunlight exposure limitations which previously had made embedding into equipment difficult.

The Palm Vein Authentication Board is a compact, smartcard-sized control board with firmware that processes such functions as image capture, registration, and authentication. Previously, use of palm vein authentication was restricted to such operating systems as Windows and Linux, but this product makes it possible to build vein authentication systems that are independent of the operating system.

These two products will be exhibited at the Fujitsu Frontech booth at the 18th Auto-ID & Communication Expo, which will be held from Wednesday, September 14, to Friday, September 16, at Tokyo Big Sight.

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Geometric Announces New Release of ‘Tolerance Based Machining’ for CAMWorks

14 September 2016

Geometric Americas today announced a new release of their revolutionary technology that uses SOLIDWORKS® 3D DimXpert and Model Based Definition (MBD) 3D dimensions and annotations to automate the programming of CNC machined components.

CAMWorks was uniquely architected to reduce a 3D solid model into a set of discrete machining features, and apply a knowledge base that selects tools, feeds, speeds, and machining strategies to automate the creation of CNC toolpaths. Tolerance Based Machining dramatically enhances CAMWorks core architecture by adding the ability to read and react to non-geometric manufacturing information such as tolerances, surface finish, and other annotations in 3D models. This ability not only speeds up the CNC programming process, and improvements in quality, but also creates a much stronger design-to-manufacturing process for machined components.

Jim Foster (VP channel marketing and sales) says, “In a world where every manufacturer is competing globally, we need to have tools that provide real breakthroughs in time-to-market. Tolerance Based Machining not only completes the digital thread between design and manufacture for machined components, but also significantly reduces CNC programming time, improves quality, and allows users to capture and reuse their best practices.”

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IMAGINiT Customers Enjoy Free 2017 Utilities for Autodesk Revit, Civil 3D and Vault Client

15 September 2016

Rand Worldwide today announced that its IMAGINiT Technologies division released IMAGINiT Utilities for Autodesk Revit 2017, IMAGINiT Utilities for Autodesk AutoCAD Civil 3D 2017, and IMAGINiT Utilities for Vault Client 2017. All Utilities are available to customers who have an annual Autodesk subscription with IMAGINiT and are available via IMAGINiT’s ProductivityNOW Portal.

“Our software development team launched the first IMAGINiT Utilities ten years ago with the goal of automating repetitive tasks, allowing Revit users to focus on higher value activities,” says Tim Johnson, senior vice president, IMAGINiT Technologies. “Due to the popularity of these tools with our customers, Utilities for Vault and Utilities for Civil 3D soon followed. Since then, we have listened closely to our customers and each year have developed updates and enhancements that directly address the issues they’re challenged with in the field.”

What’s New in IMAGINiT Utilities for Revit

BIM Coordinators from over 6,000 organizations have been using IMAGINiT Utilities for Revit since 2007.

- **DWG Check:** Quickly locate and identify Autodesk AutoCAD drawings brought into a Revit model as links or imports.
- **Batch Ungroup:** Removes the painstaking task of ungrouping multiple groups in the model.

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- Enhanced Support functionality: Easily interact with IMAGINiT's Utilities support team, open a new case, and share relevant information about your Revit environment.

What's New in IMAGINiT Utilities for Civil 3D

With the introduction of two new features, IMAGINiT Utilities for Civil 3D now includes a total of seven tools to help project managers and CAD managers better manage design workflows.

- Create Points with Offsets: Create offset points from a feature line for survey stakeout or grading purposes.
- Profile from COGO Points: Quickly create a profile from just Civil 3D points objects without the need for a surface.

What's New in IMAGINiT Utilities for Vault Client

IMAGINiT Utilities for Vault Client are designed to reduce manual-rework and automate processes for CAD managers.

- Standard Folders: Define folders that should be automatically pushed out to every user of Vault upon sign in.
- Lifecycle Change Notifier: Get an email notification when a file or folder lifecycle state changes. This feature has been enhanced to support folder-based workflows.
- Create PDF/DWG/DXF: Generate PDFs from Inventor IDW and DWG files. Enhancements for 2017 include new job types for making DWG and DXF files from IDW files as well as support for publishing PDFs on lifecycle changes outside of Vault.

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ITI's CADfix Version 11 Now Available

14 September 2016

International TechneGroup Incorporated (ITI) introduces CADfix 11, the latest version of the leading software for CAD model translation, repair and simplification. Engineers use CADfix to address common problems of 3D model data exchange and re-use between different engineering applications.

CADfix is a multi-purpose tool for CAD data translation. CADfix allows users to import CAD models and efficiently repair and adapt them before exporting to the most suitable format for downstream re-use, eliminating expensive CAD model rework. This tool is especially useful for organizations that focus on advanced analysis and manufacturing applications.

CADfix 11 includes updates to the wide range of CADfix native and neutral file interfaces, such as: CATIA v5-6 r2016, SOLIDWORKS 2016, Inventor 2016, ACIS R26 and Parasolid 28.0, plus a roll-up of CADfix 10 service pack enhancements for assembly editing, body welding, surface lofting and PLMXML support. In addition, CADfix 11 brings numerous improvements in areas such as faceted model handling and STL generation, geometry morphing, 3D print model preparation, advanced defeaturing for CAE, and simplification tools for the process plant & shipbuilding industries.

Advanced model defeaturing and simplification

CADfix 11 builds on the already impressive set of model simplification tools used by analysis engineers. Fillet and chamfer deletion now removes more complex networks of features with a significant speed

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improvement. The automatic splitting of surfaces for structured meshing has been updated to operate on more complex regions and to generate additional layers.

Geometry morphing

CADfix can use CAE analysis displacement results to accurately morph nominal CAD model geometry. CADfix generates smooth, well-defined geometry that can be exported back to CAD as a usable model, or to CAE for re-meshing and further analysis. Morphing improvements in version 11 include support for closed surfaces, split lines and mid-side nodes.

CADfix can import faceted model representations such as JT, STL, 3D PDF, CATIA V5 CGR or CATIA V4 SOLM, and reverse engineer them to usable general CAD BREP models using NURBS and analytic surface geometry. CADfix 11 sees a more robust STL export with reduced faceting failures and new options to export non-watertight models, as well as additional facet length control. A new set of faceted model diagnostics enables the rapid repair of STL files.

3D printing and additive manufacturing precision

The popular geometry processing and model preparation utilities for Additive Manufacturing and 3D printing have also been enhanced in CADfix 11. The model slicing generates high-precision slice boundaries for a superior 3D printed part finish.

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MathWorks Announces Release 2016b of the MATLAB and Simulink Product Families

15 September 2016

MathWorks today introduced Release 2016b (R2016b) with new capabilities that simplify working with big data in MATLAB. Engineers and scientists can now more easily work with data too big to fit in memory. R2016b also includes additional features in Simulink; a new product, Risk Management Toolbox; and updates and bug fixes to 83 other products.

Tall arrays now provide a way to work naturally with out-of-memory data using familiar MATLAB functions and syntax, removing the need to learn big data programming. Engineers and scientists can use tall arrays with hundreds of math, statistics, and machine learning algorithms. Code can run on Hadoop clusters or be integrated directly into Spark applications.

R2016b also includes a timetable data container for indexing and synchronizing time-stamped tabular data; string arrays to help manipulate, compare, and store text data efficiently; and new functions for preprocessing data.

“Companies are awash in data, but struggle to take advantage of it to build better predictive models and gain deeper insights,” says David Rich, MATLAB marketing director, MathWorks. “With R2016b, we’ve lowered the bar to allow domain experts to work with more data, more easily. This leads to improved system design, performance, and reliability.”

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Siemens Showcases Digital Enterprise at Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute

14 September 2016

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Today, Siemens unveiled the Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase at the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII) in Chicago. This showcase is designed to help enable industrial manufacturers to observe and explore a working digital enterprise so they can better understand its potential value to their own organizations.

Siemens has been a tier one partner with DMDII since its inception, with a focus on joint collaboration with the government, industry and academia. The partners work on solving some of the most challenging questions facing manufacturing today through the Project Call process established by DMDII. Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase creates a hands-on environment to illustrate how digitalization can help answer questions such as how manufacturers can extend the digital twin strategy across the value chain, including supply chain and the factory floor, to realize bottom line results; how to optimize human-systems integration; how to make organizational transformations to experience the full potential of digitalization of the value chain; and how to educate America's workforce on digital manufacturing and design technologies.

“Siemens and DMDII share a vision of transforming American manufacturing,” says Raj Batra, President, Digital Factory US, Siemens. “Working together with DMDII and its partners, we can create the tools and technologies to help solve today's most pressing manufacturing challenges and help U.S. companies become more competitive through digital technologies. The Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase is an example of how Siemens and DMDII are partnering to break new ground in manufacturing innovation.”

The fourth industrial revolution is underway, making it vital for OEMs and suppliers to take a holistic approach to the entire product lifecycle process, from ideation to production design and all the way through the utilization the product. Digitalization and automation of the complete workflow can help provide a long-term competitive advantage and are essential steps in creating “digital twins” i.e. virtual models that duplicate and simulate the real world properties and performance of physical products, production lines and processes. Whether a process manufacturer, a discrete manufacturer or a hybrid, the key to remaining competitive is using digitalization to connect operations across the entire product lifecycle, and the Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase demonstrates how this can be done.

“With its Digital Enterprise Software Suite, Siemens offers companies a holistic set of hardware and software solutions to establish their Digital Enterprise,” says Bob Jones, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Americas, Siemens. “Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase at DMDII provides a hands-on opportunity to see how these solutions can help play a stronger role in the future Internet economy being brought on by Industry 4.0.”

The Siemens Digital Enterprise Showcase includes kiosks with automation and software demonstrations of the Digital Enterprise Software Suite, which is Siemens answer to the technology requirements of the digital age. Software suites such as Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), MOM (Manufacturing Operations Management) and Totally Integrated Automation (TIA) provide the required functionality to remove barriers and merge engineering disciplines that can connect operations from the shop floor to the enterprise level of a manufacturing organization.

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