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CIMdata News

CIMdata Announces the Completion of its Recent PLM Status & Trends Research

6 March 2018

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm, announces the completion of its research in to the current status and trends related to the product lifecycle management (PLM) economy.

The goal of the research was to deepen the PLM community's collective understanding of the status, drivers, and preconditions necessary for companies to derive value from their investment in PLM. A web-based survey was developed to identify the key issues.

Significant findings show that:

- Industrial companies continue to struggle to move their PLM implementations beyond traditional product data management (PDM) topics, such as engineering data management, engineering change and change management, configuration management, and workflow management.
- The value and importance of PLM is still primarily being seen by the engineering function.
- The pursuit of future topics, such as AI and machine learning, are still more than five years away for most of the survey respondents.

According to Mr. Peter Bilello, CIMdata's President, "Many of the research findings are heavily weighted towards the traditional aspects of PLM, which is consistent with CIMdata's experience with its industrial clients. Survey responses indicate that industrial companies find PLM to be worth the investment and that PLM budget trends show a continued investment in the near term. The major challenges facing users going forward are the confusion surrounding the overlapping processes and functions of enterprise systems (PLM, ERP, and MES), as well as cultural issues."

For more information on this research contact CIMdata at: info@CIMdata.com.

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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 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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Removing the Constraints of Human Knowledge (CIMdata Blog)

9 March 2018

CIMdata's Executive Consultant, Dr. Keith Meintjes, recently shared his views on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

He summed it up as follows:

"It's an audacious thing to say, that human knowledge is a constraint on our imagination and innovation. Don't we all know that companies succeed because of their human capital, their intellectual property, their collective tribal knowledge? Perhaps, but we also all know that knowledge can be an inhibitor."

Dr. Keith Meintjes, CIMdata

Learn more by reading the full blog post at: <https://www.cimdata.com/en/resources/cimdata-blog/item/9775-removing-the-constraints-of-human-knowledge>

Don't forget to share it with your colleagues and let Keith know what you think!

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SOLIDWORKS World 2018: Enhancing SOLIDWORKS and Leveraging the 3DEXPERIENCE Platform (CIMdata Commentary)

8 March 2018

Key takeaways:

- *One of SOLIDWORKS' stated "big ambitions is...to be the Amazon for your ideas and dreams to design and make."*
- *Dassault Systèmes' continued investment in SOLIDWORKS illustrated its strategic commitment to add value for SOLIDWORKS' users and ensure that SOLIDWORKS remains a design platform of choice.*
- *SOLIDWORKS and its partners continue to emphasize additive manufacturing as a major area of investment, development, and enablement.*

The 20th annual SOLIDWORKS World conference was held February 4-7, 2018 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, California. A large and enthusiastic crowd of more than 5,000 SOLIDWORKS users attended the conference. Over the course of the four-day event attendees heard from more than a dozen keynote speakers, as well as had the opportunity to attend more than 200 breakout sessions where additional insight could be gained in a wide range of topics (e.g., design, manufacturing, 3D CAD, simulation, electrical design and schematics, communications, collaboration, and data management).

This year's overall theme was "Think: SOLIDWORKS." Ms. Tracy B. Wilson, actor, writer, photographer, and this year's general session host, kicked off the event by welcoming the crowd and introducing Mr. Gian Paolo Bassi, CEO, Dassault Systèmes SOLIDWORKS Corporation, who rode through the audience, along with a few special guests, including Mr. Bernard Charlès, Vice Chairman, Chief Executive Officer Dassault Systèmes, on a "Moveable Feast" designed in SOLIDWORKS by Two Bit Circus. It would be best to describe the "Moveable Feast" as a vehicle that transports diners as they sit and eat a meal.

Think: Future

As usual, Mr. Bassi engaged the crowd with great enthusiasm and energy. He stressed that SOLIDWORKS has "big ambitions," including, as he described it, "...to be the Amazon for your ideas and dreams to design and make." He spoke of how industry is in the midst of a major renaissance and how his team is focused on making knowledge available to the SOLIDWORKS' community by embedding real-time simulation, as well as extending and enhancing the community through the creation of a marketplace. He also stressed that SOLIDWORKS is committed to continuing the delivery of desktop and online best-in-class design solutions. His main product related announcements focused on the following five new things for SOLIDWORKS 2018:

- *3DEXPERIENCE Social Collaboration Services*—a set of capabilities that have been designed to support initial concept generation.
- *SOLIDWORKS 3DEXPERIENCE PLM Services*—access to 3DEXPERIENCE platform PLM capabilities that support collaboration and management of part creation and their lifecycle.
- *SOLIDWORKS Product Designer*—extended capabilities that have been designed to support the full art to part design lifecycle.

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- *SOLIDWORKS xDesign*—a cloud-based 3D CAD offering that runs in a browser. SOLIDWORKS has designed this solution to give the user the ability to design anywhere, anytime, on any device.
- *3DEXPERIENCE Marketplace*—a cloud-based ecommerce site managed by Dassault Systèmes that has been designed to bring designers, engineers, and manufacturers together.

These announcements illustrate a strong commitment to extended SOLIDWORKS' capabilities, as well as provide better and more feature rich access to Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE platform. Dassault Systèmes' decision to enter into the marketplace business is consistent with its long-term commitment to its communities of customers across its extensive solution set. This move also illustrates how the 3DEXPERIENCE platform is the underlying foundation for its solutions, as well as other go-to-market strategies. From CIMdata's perspective, these announcements support Dassault Systèmes' overall strategy and long-term commitment to its user base across its solution suite.

Mr. Charlès appeared on stage next and focused on Dassault Systèmes' strategy around product, nature, and life. He emphasized how Dassault Systèmes continues to invest in SOLIDWORKS and its sizable and growing community. He also described the critical role that SOLIDWORKS plays in Dassault Systèmes' overall solution strategy, how the announced marketplace will change things, and how the 3DEXPERIENCE platform is making things more connected and collaborative. Mr. Charlès concluded by reemphasizing Dassault Systèmes' commitment to the SOLIDWORKS' community and to delivering the best user experiences both on the desktop and online.

Mr. Kishore Boyalakuntla, VP Product Portfolio Management, SOLIDWORKS, spoke next. He wowed the crowd by summarizing nine new enhancements for SOLIDWORKS 2018 including conceptual design, topology optimization, model-based detailing, SOLIDWORKS CAM, inspection and visualize, and production and shop support enhancements. The crowd appeared to be sitting on the edge of their seats, highly engaged by the new announcements. In general, CIMdata believes that making such advanced technologies available to SOLIDWORKS users helps democratize these features and in so doing, more product designers can take advantage of emerging manufacturing techniques, such as additive manufacturing (AM) and lifecycle digital twin support.

The keynote speaker of the day was Ms. Neri Oxman, the Sony Corporation Career Development Professor and Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at the MIT Media Lab. According to the MIT website,¹ Ms. Oxman's "...goal is to augment the relationship between built, natural, and biological environments by employing design principles inspired and engineered by Nature and implementing them in the invention of novel design technologies."

Ms. Oxman delivered a thought provoking presentation about what can be designed and made by using biopolymers (i.e., polymers produced by living organisms), synthetic cells, and adaptive materials. The outcomes she forecast are dynamically adjustable products like buildings, bridges, clothes, and even human organs, which ultimately behave like living things. She highlighted an example of her work by showing a human habitat that was built using 6,500 silkworms, which were guided using heat, light, and vibration. She also compared and contrasted the differences between man-made machines and organisms. In doing so, she introduced new verbs to the audience such as "naturing" and "growing parts," the latter being discussed during a press session held by Desktop Metal later in the day.

Mr. Andy Roberts, Senior software engineer, Desktop Metal (a firm that focuses on how to make metal

¹ <http://matter.media.mit.edu/people/bio/neri-oxman>

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3D printing accessible to engineering teams), presented a video to the press and analyst community that showed how, using their new software, it's possible to "grow parts." The video highlighted how a constraint-based model can be used to guide the creation of a structure from point A to B. Mr. Roberts reported that their algorithms use morphogenic signaling (Greek: beginning of the shape) to grow children cells and shed redundant cells as it grows in what is found to be the most optimal manner. This represents an exciting new era where engineering parts may be "grown" to conform to demands of nature, and perhaps even continue adapting after manufacture when in use.

Earlier in the day, Hewlett-Packard (HP) announced the delivery of their first multiple color AM printer, and Stratasys announced that they are teaming with Dassault Systèmes and Easton LaChappelle on a new AM initiative. As one of the events main sponsors, HP unveiled its new full color 3D printing platform. They hope to, as they stated, accelerate the democratization of 3D printing with this new platform. Their announcement also indicated a new collaboration with Dassault Systèmes. Stratasys announced that they are teaming with Dassault Systèmes and industry visionary Easton LaChappelle on a major 3D printing of prosthetics initiative called Unlimited Tomorrow. This partnership makes Stratasys "...the exclusive provider of 3D printing technology for the initiative and organization..." These two announcements are further evidence of the continued democratization of AM, both in terms of cost and availability to users of Dassault Systèmes' solutions.

New SOLIDWORKS capabilities demonstrated included: 3D texturize body definition; partial chamfer / fillet control, Microsoft Surface Dial support, gesture sketch splines and slots, enhanced 3D Markups capabilities, and enhanced virtual reality support.

Think: Innovation

Tuesday's general session focused on "Think: Innovation." As with Monday's general session, Ms. Wilson introduced the day's first speaker, Mr. Suchit Jain, Vice President, Strategy and Community, SOLIDWORKS. Mr. Jain commented that MySOLIDWORKS now has more than 1 million users and SOLIDWORKS is making the 3DEXPERIENCE PLM Services available to all SOLIDWORKS subscribers at no additional cost. He also mentioned that they will be providing access to additional add-ons to the subscription base over the months to come. This approach should encourage a stable and perhaps growing subscription base.

Mr. Jain's comments were followed by a number of customer main stage presentations, including one from Mr. Michael Jagemann, head of manufacturing at Boom Technology, Inc. Mr. Jagemann discussed how Boom partnered with SOLIDWORKS to develop the XB-1, the first independently developed supersonic jet. The XB-1 is a prototype of a supersonic jet that they are currently developing primarily for commercial trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific routes. He commented that Boom is using SOLIDWORKS to design the entire XB-1 aircraft.

Dr. Kyoungchil Kong, a professor of mechanical engineering at Sogang University, and CEO and founder of SG Robotics, presented how SG Robotics is using SOLIDWORKS to develop wearable robots that help paraplegic and disabled users regain their mobility.

Finally, Mr. Brent Bushnell, CEO and Roustabout² of Two Bit Circus, shared Two Bit Circus' history and cultural, as well as how they are "...a band of mad scientists, roboticists, visual artists and storytellers." He also described how they utilize multiple engineering and non-engineering disciplines, and SOLIDWORKS to design and create innovative experiences.

² According to Two Bit Circus' website, <http://twobitcircus.com/about-us/>

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Each of these customer presentations supported the day's theme of innovation and showed how SOLIDWORKS is being used in many different industries in creative and innovative ways—well beyond SOLIDWORKS' mechanical CAD roots. For those who were using xDesign and the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, the cost of entry was low and the speed to implement was close to immediate—powerful things in today's rapidly changing business environment where companies have to form and evolve on almost a daily basis.

As in past years, SOLIDWORKS World's agenda was packed with general sessions, demonstrations, and many press and industry analyst meetings. Fortunately, there was some time set aside to visit the Partner Pavilion. Like in past years, the 2018 edition of the pavilion included a host of interesting solution partners and product showcases, with over 120 solutions exhibited on the pavilion floor. In total, over 30 different categories of solution providers, including rapid prototyping, engineering analysis, services, data management, manufacturing, CAM, media, and visualization exhibited. This extensive and diverse set of exhibitors is another indication of the size and strength of eco-system centered around SOLIDWORKS and its user community.

Think: Next is Now

Wednesday, the fourth and final day of the event, focused on “Think: Next is Now.” Like the previous two days, the day began with Ms. Wilson kicking off the general session and handing things over to Mr. Mike Puckett, Senior Manager of the Worldwide Certification Program, SOLIDWORKS. Mr. Puckett updated the audience with some facts and figures about the SOLIDWORKS certification program, including that, at the current pace, another SOLIDWORKS user becomes certified every 10 minutes. To note, SOLIDWORKS now offers two new, industry-focused exams: Certified Additive Manufacturing Associate and Mold Making Associate. His comments provided additional evidence that the SOLIDWORKS community is growing and demanding training beyond traditional mechanical CAD capabilities.

Next up was Mr. Ryan Kraft, an engineer from Arrivo, a Los Angeles-based company focused on eliminating traffic jams. Mr. Kraft described how Arrivo is using SOLIDWORKS and select 3DEXPERIENCE platform solutions to design a high-speed “super urban network” to move people and cargo around cities.

Mr. Milos Zupanski, Director of Product Portfolio Management, SOLIDWORKS took the stage next. He described SOLIDWORKS 3DEXPERIENCE PLM Services, introduced by Mr. Bassi on Monday. He commented that the SOLIDWORKS 3DEXPERIENCE PLM Services have been designed to provide an affordable data and lifecycle management solution to companies of any size that do not want to invest in or host their own compute infrastructure. According to Mr. Zupanski, the services were designed for SOLIDWORKS Desktop and xDesign users so that they could easily collaborate, as well as to provide access to data for everyone on a team on matter where they are located.

Next on stage was Mr. Stephen Endersby, Director of Product Portfolio Management, SOLIDWORKS, who introduced Mr. Tarso Marques, a former Formula One driver and owner and founder of Tarso Marques Concepts. Mr. Marques described to the audience how the use of SOLIDWORKS changed the way he and his company innovate. While he used to sketch his ideas and model in clay at times, he has come to use some of SOLIDWORKS most suffocated modeling capabilities, including its new topology optimization features found in SOLIDWORKS Simulation, which he calls “truly transformational.”

Mr. Kurt Lundstedt, Director of Product Portfolio Management, SOLIDWORKS, introduced ENVE, another company who uses SOLIDWORKS and SOLIDWORKS Simulation. In their case, they use it to

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design molds and fixtures for high-strength carbon fiber component production. ENVE is an example of a small startup that chose SOLIDWORKS because of its capabilities and ability to grow into other Dassault Systèmes solutions as they needed. For example, in 2012 ENVE implemented SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional to help manage its SOLIDWORKS data. Today, the company is using SOLIDWORKS Manage, which provides access to project, process, and item management tools, as well as reporting capabilities. Additionally, they plan on connecting SOLIDWORKS Manage to their ERP system.

Mr. Gilo Cardoza, founder of Gilo Industries shared how his company is using SOLIDWORKS to design the Mako jetboard. According to Mr. Gilo, they went from concept design to a finished product within 12 months by using SOLIDWORKS.

These were all great examples of how SOLIDWORKS and the extensive set of Dassault Systèmes solutions are enabling companies of all sizes to design and deliver simple to complex products to market quickly and innovatively. Additionally, they demonstrated how SOLIDWORKS' community has access to solutions that allow them to start quickly and expand as needed.

Finally, as with the previous 19 SOLIDWORKS World gatherings, the audience was waiting to hear the winners of the 20th annual Model Mania—a modeling contest held during the event. Mr. Mark Schneider came on stage to announce this year's winners. It has been interesting to see how the complexity of the challenge has increased over the years and how the competitors have continued to rise to the occasion. This is another excellent example of how the SOLIDWORKS' community and its solutions have matured and been enhanced.

The final day's keynote address was delivered by Mr. Joseph Hiura and Mr. Robert Andrew Johnson, both art directors and set designers who work in the movie industry. They described how they use SOLIDWORKS to design movie sets for films such as Oblivion, Passengers, Tron Legacy, and Batman Versus Superman, to name a few. They described how they and their tools need to be highly flexible and collaborative so that they can meet the time and capability demands of their industry. As they said, not everything is done in CGI.

To wrap things up, a set of key SOLIDWORKS enhancements were announced to close out the general session. These announcements included:

- *Group mates by status*—this new feature lets a user isolate mates that either can't be solved, are suppressed, or that solve normally.
- *Preview Window Enhancements*—the new preview window provides better visualization when users are placing components into an assembly, as well as syncs better.
- *Automatically Lock Toolbox Parts*—this enhancement enables an option setting that automatically locks rotation upon insertion of Toolbox parts.
- *Massively De-Feature Assemblies*—this enhancement represents a significant improvement in the way user can quickly simplify assemblies while maintaining associativity with its original data set.

As in past years, Mr. Bassi closed the event by reminding the audience that SOLIDWORKS and the entire SOLIDWORKS community share a “big dream” and that most importantly, all parties have the knowledge, talent, character, and determination to make the dream a reality.

Concluding Remarks

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This year's SOLIDWORKS World demonstrated the strength of the SOLIDWORKS community and how its greater eco-system continues to evolve and expand. SOLIDWORKS' fit within Dassault Systèmes' solution and platform strategy continues to evolve and expand as well. These are all reassuring signs for the SOLIDWORKS community, as well as for Dassault Systèmes. Dassault Systèmes' continued long-term commitment to the SOLIDWORKS community is clear. SOLIDWORKS hasn't been a standalone solution for some time, but an integral part of Dassault Systèmes' extensive solution since the introduction of the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, as CIMdata has stated in the past, Dassault Systèmes is delivering a platform not only for CATIA users, but one for all its solutions, including its recently introduced marketplace. Being “the Amazon for designers and engineers” (or perhaps better put, being the Airbnb of the engineering and manufacturing world) is an aggressive goal, and one that, if fully satisfied, will evolve Dassault Systèmes into a new solution provider category.

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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Acquisitions

Stellar Acquisition III, Inc. Signs Definitive Agreement to Combine with Phunware, Inc. and Enter the Mobile Cloud Software and Blockchain Sectors

28 February 2018

Stellar Acquisition III, Inc. (“Stellar”) announced today that it has entered into a definitive Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”) to combine with Phunware, Inc. (“Phunware”). The transaction values Phunware at an enterprise value of \$301 million, on a cash-free, debt-free basis, with the transaction consideration to be paid in newly issued equity securities of Stellar.

The transaction with Phunware enables Stellar to enter two of the most innovative and rapidly growing sectors within the technology space: mobile cloud software and blockchain. Phunware's mobile application lifecycle management platform delivers mobile marketing automation, analytics and business intelligence, alerts, notifications and messaging, content management, location-based services, audience engagement, audience monetization, vertical solutions, big data and cryptonetworking. The platform processes over 4 billion events per day, totaling over 1.4 trillion events per year. This amounts to petabytes of actionable data across thousands of mobile application portfolios. Currently, Phunware

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receives revenue from a large and diversified customer base that includes numerous Fortune 5000 companies in both Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) via recurring revenue streams and transactional formats.

Phunware intends to initiate within the 1st half of 2018 a Token Generation Event (“TGE”) based on its “PhunCoin™” cryptonetworking ecosystem.

Phunware was established in February 2009, and has grown rapidly to date through acquisitions and venture capital offerings to strategic investors and partners. The company today has notable investors such as Wavemaker Partners (Draper Network Fund), Fraser McCombs Ventures, Maxima Ventures, Samsung, Cisco Investments, World Wrestling Entertainment, PLDT Capital, Central Texas Angel Network (CTAN), Baylor Angel Network (BAN) and others. We believe that having strategic partners with aligned interests is important in the achievement of common goals.

Following the closing, the common stock and warrants of the combined entity are expected to trade on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the name Phunware, Inc. and trading symbols “PHUN” and “PHUNW”, respectively. The combined company will be led by Mr. Alan S. Knitowski, who will continue as Phunware’s Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Matthew Aune, who will continue as Phunware’s Chief Financial Officer. As part of the transaction, the combined company will redomesticate from the Marshall Islands (Stellar’s jurisdiction of formation) to Delaware.

Management Commentary

Mr. Alan S. Knitowski, CEO of Phunware, said, “Our stated goal has always been to reach every connected device on Earth through mobile applications, and this transaction turbocharges our ability to achieve that vision. With a current reach to over one in ten devices worldwide, our platform is a formidable foundation to build upon. Merging with Stellar will enable us to scale that foundation through organic and inorganic growth, including the PhunCoin Token Generation Event. We are extremely proud of this important milestone and are excited for the future.”

Mr. Matt Aune, CFO of Phunware, added, “Since Phunware’s founding in 2009, we have seen dramatic growth both financially and as a platform. We are now at an exciting stage of our development where we are prepared to take our products and scale to the next level, and this transaction provides the resources that we will use to implement our ambitious plans worldwide.”

Mr. Akis Tsirigakis, Co-CEO of Stellar, stated “We are very pleased to announce this transaction and our entry into the mobile cloud software and blockchain sectors, both extremely attractive and rapidly growing market segments, with great potential for many years to come. Phunware is in the process of implementing its ambitious plan to become the global leader in Multiscreen as a Service (MaaS) and becoming a public company, which will allow Phunware to further enhance its quality and governance foundations.”

Mr. George Syllantavos, Co-CEO of Stellar, added “Through this transaction, we offer our shareholders the opportunity to participate in the growth prospects of this innovative company within the exciting MaaS/SaaS/blockchain sectors. Phunware is a company on the forefront of technological advancements, having the vision and unique ability to integrate mobile cloud software and blockchain technology for the benefit of the global consumer. We are excited about the future and are committed to contribute to the company’s success.”

Overview of Phunware

Phunware is the pioneer of Multiscreen as a Service (MaaS), a fully integrated suite of platform

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products, solutions and data that allows brands to engage, manage and monetize their anytime, anywhere mobile application users worldwide. Phunware creates category-defining mobile experiences for the world's most respected brands, with petabytes of data across thousands of mobile application portfolios.

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Wipro to Acquire Minority Stake in Denim Group, a Leading Application Security Solution Provider

1 March 2018

Wipro Limited and Denim Group today announced that Wipro has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a minority stake in the U.S. based company.

This partnership will bring together Wipro's strong digital transformation and cybersecurity capabilities with Denim Group's application security consulting, assessments and implementation services including DevSecOps and secure development training services. This, coupled with Denim Group's flagship product ThreadFix, the premier application vulnerability correlation and resolution platform, will offer customers significant value in mitigating cybersecurity risks. ThreadFix is designed to give security practitioners the ability to understand the security posture of their applications and conduct efficient and effective remediation.

"Wipro's investment in Denim Group reflects our continued commitment to assist our customers in simplifying digital risk management by enabling them to roll out secure software faster. It strengthens Wipro's portfolio of digital transformation services as well as taps into services for embedding security in software development methodologies such as Agile & DevOps," said Sheetal Mehta, Vice President & Global Head, Cybersecurity & Risk Services, Wipro Limited.

"We are excited to use this investment to further mature the ThreadFix platform and drive growth," said John Dickson, Principal, Denim Group. "Collaborating with Wipro will greatly increase our reach, and help fulfill our mission of building a world where technology is trusted."

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Company News

Accenture Opens Innovation Hub in Zurich to Help Clients with Their Digital Transformation Agendas

7 March 2018

Accenture will open an Innovation Hub in Zurich today, accompanied by an evening event for clients. The hub focuses on the creation of new customer experiences, spanning a range of design, innovation and technology capabilities in one location. It allows clients to tap into the full spectrum of skills needed to co-create innovative digital solutions with speed and agility – all in a creative, inspiring space.

Customers today are no longer satisfied with passively consuming products; they demand engaging, interactive brand experiences. The Innovation Hub in Zurich helps clients meet that demand through the [Accenture Studios](#), where they can envision, design and create products and services that enable real

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impact and transform the end-to-end customer journey.

In the [Accenture Interactive Studio](#), clients can get hands on with and apply the latest digital technologies to reimagine customer experiences. The innovative workspace is equipped with all the tools needed to rapidly build and test prototypes. Contained within is a [Fjord Studio](#), focused on design-led strategy, service design and product creation. Here, Fjord designers and creative technologists apply design thinking methodologies to create engaging digital services and mobile apps with a human-centered focus that aims to make the complex simple.

The Hub also features a [Liquid Studio](#), where Accenture helps clients accelerate innovation and software deployment cycles. At the Liquid Studio, clients work side-by-side with highly skilled Accenture professionals, building innovative solutions with speed and agility through disruptive technologies including artificial intelligence, blockchain and cloud.

[Accenture Extended Reality](#) (XR) capabilities will also be offered as part of the Innovation Hub. This group helps clients take advantage of augmented reality, virtual reality and mixed reality technologies to create immersive experiences that bring products and services to life. The XR capability is headed by the newly hired [Marco Tempest](#), who has worked as Creative Technologist at the NASA | Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is a Director's Fellow at the MIT Media Lab in Boston, Massachusetts.

“Our clients expect us to guide them through their digital transformation journeys, and this starts with reimagining the customer experience,” said Thomas Meyer, country managing director, Accenture Switzerland and Digital Lead for Accenture in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. “By setting up the Innovation Hub as a co-location and bringing diverse teams together, we enable easy collaboration and rapid ideation across a variety of Accenture’s disciplines and skill sets from which our clients will benefit as they seek to drive customer-centric innovation.”

The Innovation Hub brings to life an integral part of the [Accenture Innovation Architecture](#), which draws together capabilities – from research, ventures and labs to studios, innovation centers and delivery centers – to develop and deliver disruptive innovations for clients, and to scale them faster.

The Innovation Hub in Zurich further expands Accenture’s presence in Switzerland, becoming the new permanent home of the Fjord Zurich studio launched in October 2016. The hub is located at St. Annagasse 9, a seven-minute walk from Accenture’s main location in Fraumünsterstrasse. For images of the new facilities and the opening event, follow Accenture Switzerland on [Instagram](#).



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Airborne and Plataine Partnering for Automated Composites Kitting Solution

7 March 2018

Today, Airborne and Plataine officially sealed their partnership during the JEC World 2018.

-Minimize waste and optimize factory logistics-

Last year Airborne was one of the first companies worldwide to introduce a fully automated kitting solution. Today, Airborne and Plataine emphasize the further development of [automated composites kitting](#) solution by joining forces.

One of the key advantages of an automated kitting system is that it can facilitate the use of Plataine's strong expertise in the field of digitizing and [optimizing complex manufacturing processes](#) using AI-

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based algorithms that create optimized cut-plans (nesting), with the ability to mix product plies using the same raw material, and create an integrated method for dynamic nesting. Adopting these strategies to minimize material waste and optimize factory logistics, comes to its fullest extent when integrated into Airborne robust hardware solution for automated kitting. The new partnership displays the ultimate example of system optimization by perfectly aligning hardware and software.

Plataine and Airborne collaboration combines Plataine's software and Airborne's automated equipment, allowing manufacturers to take part mixing to the extreme, thanks to the Airborne automated robotic cell that can handle the complex sorting and kitting. This ensures optimal material utilization, shorter production cycles and rapid time to market.

-Integrating software and hardware-

"Combining Airborne's and Plataine's unique and complementary technologies enables ultimate nesting and material utilization for composite materials. For our customers, this will result in double digit material cost reductions," said Arno van Mourik, CEO Airborne.

Avner Ben-Bassat, President & CEO at Plataine said: "The Airborne-Plataine partnership will be a real game changer allowing composites part manufacturers to enter many more applications than currently being used, overcoming the limitation of human operators to sort and retrieve the plies from the cutting table when dealing with highly mixed cut-plans."



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Arena Solutions Continues Strong Cloud PLM Growth in 2017, Surpassing 1,000 Customer Mark

6 March 2018

Arena Solutions today announced that it closed a successful 2017 by surpassing the 1,000-customer mark. Arena provides the most comprehensive approach to new product development (NPD) and new product introduction (NPI) in the market through better visibility and enhanced collaboration, which enables dispersed teams to introduce new products more quickly, with fewer errors.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, Arena added 35 percent more new customers than it did for the same period in 2016. Arena also closed more enterprise deals in 2017 than in any prior year. More than one-third of new customers in 2017 were medical device and life sciences companies, a fast-growing segment for cloud-based product realization.

New customers signed in Q4 2017 include:

- Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (Laboratory Products Business): Helps customers accelerate life sciences research, solve complex analytical challenges, improve patient diagnostics, deliver medicines to market, and increase laboratory productivity.
- IMRIS: Offers the most advanced hybrid surgical theatres with the world's first and only moving ceiling-mounted iMRI and iCT technology that gives neurosurgeons access to high-quality images during surgical procedures.
- Sena Technologies: Provides smart helmets, cameras, remote controls, and communication devices.
- Humatics: Spatial Intelligence solutions that revolutionize how people and machines locate,

navigate, and collaborate.

Arena Solutions also added three new executives in the fourth quarter to support continued growth. Jeff Cross joined as Chief Financial Officer, Erin Teter as Vice President of Human Resources, and Fred Waugh as Vice President of Marketing. Additional key milestones for 2017 included achieving uptime performance of more than 99.99% over a 12-month period, and surpassing 50,000 users worldwide. Arena announced key partnerships in 2017 and delivered new integrations with BrightReps to connect customer feedback to product processes from Salesforce and Zendesk, and with Paradata to help automate product design and sourcing decisions with their AI-driven data quality platform.

"Arena's success in 2017 validates our investment in extending the borders of traditional product lifecycle and quality management solutions," said Arena CEO Craig Livingston. "Today's markets are moving faster than ever. To compete, complex product companies with global supply chains need a complete end-to-end product realization platform so they can move from concept to delivery as quickly as possible, while maintaining a high level of quality. Arena is providing that solution today."

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Darren Roos Appointed as CEO of IFS

5 March 2018

[IFS](#) today announces it has hired Darren Roos as the Chief Executive Officer of IFS. The appointment is effective 1 April 2018 and aligns with the retirement of Alastair Sorbie at the end of Q1 2018.

Roos is a proven enterprise software leader, with a track-record for establishing and scaling global software businesses. Most recently Roos was President of SAP's Cloud ERP business, and prior to that, significantly grew Software AG's international operations, which enabled the company to triple in size during his tenure.

Darren Roos, CEO of IFS, said: "I am excited and privileged to lead IFS in this next chapter. IFS is an incredible business! The combination of its strong ERP heritage, leadership in EAM and FSM, and exemplary customer satisfaction gives it the perfect platform to play a dominant role in the enterprise software industry. I plan to bring my experience and skills specifically around scaling companies, building cloud businesses, and establishing high-performing teams to enable IFS to continue to flourish." He added: "I'm looking forward to meeting and engaging with the 3,500 women and men who have built this business and the 10,000 customers and partners who make it great."

Per Franzén, partner at EQT (the owner of IFS), commented: "Darren's experience, knowledge, and proven track record of building successful businesses in the markets where IFS operates make him a great choice as CEO. The appointment of Darren comes at a time when IFS has a real opportunity to generate further momentum in the sector and extend its leadership position. This is good news for customers, partners and of course employees." He continued: "We thank Alastair for his commitment to the company and we are grateful to him for establishing IFS as the successful business it is today. We also look forward to continue working with Alastair as part of the EQT industrial network."

Commenting on his retirement, Alastair Sorbie said: "I am proud to have built IFS into a global organization during my 12 years as CEO. I would like to thank the many colleagues who have been part of this journey – they have helped sustain a culture that enables IFS to attract and retain talented employees and industry-leading customers. I wish them, Darren, and whole of the IFS community, the

very best for the future."

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Deutsche Telekom and SAP Expand Partnership to the Internet of Things for Real-Time Logistics

26 February 2018

[SAP SE](#) and Deutsche Telekom are expanding their partnership to include Internet of Things (IoT) solutions for real-time logistics.

This announcement was made at [Mobile World Congress](#) in Barcelona, which took place from February 26 through March 1.

Enterprises of all sizes are seeking to benefit from the proliferation of sensors and smart equipment by embracing the IoT for improved customer intimacy, new business models, reduced waste and higher efficiency. SAP and Deutsche Telekom are joining forces to deliver a comprehensive, cost-effective solution that provides connectivity, business application software, device tracking and monitoring and support services.

"In the complexity of the digital age, customers increasingly seek for comprehensive support to address their business needs — at the device, connectivity, platform and software level," said Anette Bronder, director of Telekom Security and T-Systems' Digital Division. "To offer our customers the best, easiest-to-use and most secure solution for every specific need, we constantly expand our IoT partner ecosystem and are excited to extend our collaboration with SAP to the fields of IoT and smart logistics."

As a part of this agreement, Deutsche Telekom will create a portfolio of comprehensive offerings that will include hardware, connectivity, security, monitoring and operational service at one transparent price. Data collected and managed by Deutsche Telekom will be made available to IoT and supply chain management at SAP, including integration to the enterprise digital core with SAP S/4 HANA. Under the agreement, both companies plan to create and certify the interfaces between Deutsche Telekom IoT Platforms and SAP Cloud Platform — their respective workhorses for IoT-enabled scenarios.

"The offerings provided by Deutsche Telekom are truly complementary to the SAP Leonardo IoT portfolio — SAP's enterprise-grade offering for digital innovation," said Dr. Tanja Rueckert, president of IoT & Digital Supply Chain, SAP. "We are building on the respective strengths of the two companies to provide our customers with end-to-end solutions that drive enterprise value from 'things to outcomes.'"

The first of these offerings, including technology from Deutsche Telekom's partner [Roambee Corp.](#), is intended to serve customers with mobile assets or the need to track or monitor the condition of moving objects in real time. Silicon Valley-based Roambee, in which Deutsche Telekom holds an equity stake, was one of the first IoT smart logistics and asset management companies to deliver on-demand real-time visibility, tracking and condition monitoring for goods and assets in transit and in the field. Based on Roambee's hardware, monitoring and support services, Deutsche Telekom and Roambee have jointly created an end-to-end solution addressing vehicle tracking, track-and-trace or intralogistics scenarios. With Deutsche Telekom acting as a data custodian, the real-time data is collected securely via the mobile networks of Deutsche Telekom and its network partners. Data can be forwarded to the customer's SAP Leonardo IoT-based solutions running on SAP Cloud Platform to bring the data to life, enabling superior insight and the better management of business processes.

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Electra Meccanica SOLO - Concept to Production in Less than Two Years

7 March 2018

Electra Meccanica collaborated with Siemens PLM Software and MAYA Heat Transfer Technologies Ltd. to bring its new SOLO electric vehicle to production in just 18 short months.

This video details how Electra Meccanica (EMV) utilized Siemens' product lifecycle management software solutions as well as its expertise in the computer aided engineering to optimize the design for structure, thermal, flow and material composition and to maximize the overall performance of the SOLO.

Developed by Electra Meccanica, the SOLO is the first all-electric, single-seat vehicle designed to reduce congestion, air pollution and operating cost. It can achieve highway speeds and has a 100 mile range on a full charge that would cover most drivers' daily commuting needs, making SOLO the ideal supplementary vehicle that is fun to drive at an affordable price. \$250 fully-refundable pre-orders can be made by visiting the EMV website at <http://smallEV.com>.

Electra Meccanica Vehicles Corp., a Canadian-based designer and manufacturer of electric vehicles, builds the innovative, all-electric SOLO, a single passenger vehicle developed to revolutionize the way people commute, as well as the Tofino convertible, an elegant high-performance sports car. Both vehicles are tuned for the ultimate driving experience while making your commute more efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

Intermeccanica has successfully been building high-end specialty cars for 57 years. Electra Meccanica, with its subsidiary Intermeccanica, is delivering next generation affordable electric vehicles to the masses.

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ESI Group formalizes the transformation of its management organization in line with its new value proposition

6 March 2018

ESI Group today announced the transformation of its management and operational organization, in line with the adaptation of its new Hybrid Twin™ solutions, representing industrial product in its

development phase (traditional PLM), but also in its 'in-service' operational conditions (Product Performance Lifecycle™, "PPL"), as part of its global "Objective 2020" strategy. This transformation aims to bring the Group's business and executive management in line with ESI's new value proposition, based on the pace and disruptive evolution needs of its industrial customers. The Group's organization is now structured, in alignment with the challenges of the Industry 4.0 and Smart Factory and the Outcome Economy, around three business pillars: "Engineering" (design and development of industrial products), "Manufacturing" (manufacturing of products) and "In-Service" (usage, control and maintenance of products, from launch to withdrawal).

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In this context and to support this fundamental reorganization, Christian Matzen, GEC member, is promoted to Executive Vice-President “Sales and Marketing” (EVP S&M), and Dominique Lefebvre is appointed Director of Product Operations and joins the GEC.

These executive corporate management changes follow the recent appointment of Angelita Reyes as the Group Human Resources Director, GEC member, who is already actively involved in the Group’s structural reorganization plan.

The constitution of ESI’s Group Executive Committee is now fully aligned with the Group’s new strategic vision from Virtual Prototype to Hybrid Twin™ and now gathers the following members:

Christian Matzen – Executive Vice-President Sales and Marketing
Corinne Romefort-Régnier – Corporate Governance Director
Christopher St.John – COO, Distribution and Support Operations
Alain de Rouvray – Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer

Vincent Chaillou – Board member, COO and President Edition Operations
Dominique Lefebvre – Edition Product Operations Director

Angelita Reyes – Group Human Resources Director

Mike Salari – Executive Vice-President Engineering Service

CHRISTIAN MATZEN – EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT SALES AND MARKETING

Christian Matzen is a graduate of the Technical University of Braunschweig (Germany) and received an Executive MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago. Christian joined the Group as Managing Director of IC.IDO in 2011, when ESI acquired this virtual reality technology pioneer. He will draw on his operational and strategic expertise of industrial requirements to devise a new sales and marketing policy for developing large accounts and their supply chains, and also growing the customer base around the Group’s three recently defined business pillars. Christian was previously Executive Vice-President Immersive Virtual Engineering and Group Executive Committee (GEC) member.

DOMINIQUE LEFEBVRE - DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT OPERATIONS

Dominique Lefebvre holds an engineering degree from Ecole Centrale de Nantes (formerly Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Mécanique) and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Swansea, UK (1989). Dominique joined ESI Group in 1991 after a period as a lecturer-researcher in the Aeronautics Department at Imperial College, London. He has occupied many different roles within ESI, first in software development and then as production processes product manager, before being appointed Head of Product Management and now Product Operations. Dominique’s deep knowledge and long experience of ESI and its numerous innovative technologies will help keep the Group’s R&D in line with its new value propositions. Dominique joins the Group Executive Committee (GEC).



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Infor Continues Trajectory Toward FedRAMP Compliance

27 February 2018

[Infor](#) today announced that the company has reached a significant milestone in providing its U.S. federal government customers increased confidence in the security of Infor's products and cloud solutions.

Infor Government Software as a Service (SaaS) (IGS) featuring Infor Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) has reached "FedRAMP Prioritization" status by the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) and has formally begun the process for achieving a Provisional Authorization to Proceed (P-ATO). IGS-EAM is a cloud-based, award winning, configurable enterprise-grade asset management solution that runs within Infor's Common Controls Environment that includes the Xi platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS) GovCloud FedRAMP infrastructure. Users have the power to improve asset and maintenance management for a diverse range of items, from simple to highly complex, in ways that help increase reliability, enhance predictive maintenance, ensure regulatory compliance, reduce energy usage, and support sustainability initiatives.

"We are excited to have been selected by the FedRAMP PMO based on our demonstration that Infor-offered services will benefit the widest variety of Agencies across the Federal Government. IGS is an important part of our overall Risk Management Framework to provide our government customers and government contractors secure SaaS offerings to meet their mission needs," said Joe Arthur, Public Sector Principle Strategy.

FedRAMP is a government-wide program that provides a standardized approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring for cloud products and services. The final phase of the process is the JAB Authorization Review, where Infor will undergo a rigorous review of the company's security package, and will work closely with our 3PAO and the JAB to achieve FedRAMP authorization.

"Infor's applications continue to undergo rigorous requirements and increased scrutiny to move forward in this process, which very few companies can achieve. Proving that our solutions can handle these high levels of compliance will provide our customers with greater peace of mind when selecting our applications to streamline their business needs," said Wayne Bobby, vice president, Infor Federal. "This is a major step that provides our government customers a choice for industry specific solutions aligned with their business model today and into the future."

For more information please visit <https://www.infor.com/solutions/ps/>.



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Infosys Opens Indianapolis Technology and Innovation Hub

6 March 2018

[Infosys](#) today inaugurated its flagship Technology and Innovation Hub in Indianapolis. In addition, the company announced that it has hired more than 2,500 American workers over the past year as part of its ongoing commitment to accelerate innovation for American enterprises.

The Indianapolis Hub in One America Tower will train, upskill and reskill employees in the technologies required to help businesses accelerate their digital transformations, while also allowing Infosys to work closely with clients to develop cross-functional solutions to pressing business challenges.

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"What an honor to celebrate Infosys' grand opening in Indiana today," Governor Eric J. Holcomb said. "Not long ago, Infosys announced its plans to grow and create up to 2,000 high-wage jobs for Hoosiers. Today, the company is not just up and running here in Indiana; it's taking off. It's great to welcome a company like Infosys that shares our vision for a 21st century skilled workforce and is committed to increasing opportunity for working adults, students and educators. I'm glad they'll be a part of our efforts to take Indiana to the next level, and I look forward to witnessing their continued success."

"We are excited to continue our collaboration with the State of Indiana by opening our first Technology and Innovation Hub here in Indianapolis," said Ravi Kumar, President, Infosys. "This will expand our ability to serve clients' needs in cutting-edge technologies and evolve our local workforce to help our clients in their efforts to digitize and renew their core businesses as well as innovate into new breakthrough areas."

"It's an honor to once again welcome Infosys to Indianapolis as they open their newest tech hub. Time and time again, our community has proven itself an epicenter of innovation and we're excited to reach new heights alongside Infosys," said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. "With thousands of new employees, their place in our community will ensure expanded access to S.T.E.M. programing, helping our city succeed for decades to come."

"We are excited about the Technology and Innovation Hub that Infosys is launching. Cummins, like many other companies in Indiana, relies on access to great technology, research advances and talent development. The Hub will not only help develop the skills we need, it will also serve as a forum to exchange ideas and knowledge with experts across critical disciplines," said Tom Linebarger, Cummins Inc. Chairman and CEO.

The Hub-which currently houses more than 150 employees and is growing quickly-also serves as an innovation lab, showcasing new prototypes in virtual, augmented and robotic technologies, and as a space to foster co-creation, training and collaboration. In addition, the Hub is home to an Infosys ITAR facility to help us support companies requiring enhanced security services.

Infosys' partnerships with academic institutions such as Purdue University and Udacity will provide recent graduates and experienced professionals with exposure to the latest training, research and development. These partners augment Infosys dedicated learning facilities within the Hub, which will deliver continuous learning across the employee lifecycle.

Infosys Foundation USA will host Pathfinders Summer Institute, a national convening for K-12 teacher education in Computer Science and Making. The event will be held at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB) for more than 800 public school teachers from July 15-20, 2018. Teachers from around the country will convene on the IUB campus for high-quality, hands-on training for computer science and Maker education at no cost to them. For more details, please visit <http://www.InfyPathfinders.org>.



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inRiver Expands Management Team to Drive Continued Innovation in Product Information Management Market

9 March 2018

[inRiver](#) today welcomed [Eric Waller](#) as CTO and head of product development. Waller brings more than

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three decades of experience in software engineering, software architecture, information technology strategy, and systems engineering for business applications and data center operations. An enterprise user experience visionary, Waller will expand upon the award-winning user interface and feature-rich platform that customers have come to expect from inRiver.

“More than 1,000 brands worldwide leverage inRiver Product Marketing Cloud and PIM solutions to go to market faster with maximum impact,” said Thor Johnson, CEO at inRiver. “We are growing quickly. Adding Eric to inRiver’s leadership team will accelerate development and continue the quality and innovation that we’re known for.”

Waller joins inRiver from Pansophic Learning, where he drove technology strategy and operations worldwide for both online and traditional schools that spanned early learning through higher education. Over the course of a thirty-year career, Waller has held a number of technology leadership positions, including CTO and head of product and software development at K12, Fannie Mae, and OneSoft.

Now serving more than 1,000 brands worldwide, including such venerable companies as MillerCoors, Ethan Allen, Braun, DeLonghi, and L’Oréal, inRiver is the leader in product information management solutions and the only provider of a true multi-tenant software-as-a-service offering.



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No Longer Emerging: Industrial IoT and AR are Critical Business Investments for Organizations in 2018

22 February 2018

PTC announced the release of its bi-annual “State of Industrial Innovation” research report series. Based on data gathered from PTC’s customer base, the series provides a data-driven, objective view into the current state and future plans for the adoption of Industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and augmented reality (AR) technologies. Each report provides a glimpse into the industries driving adoption, the functions and use cases being deployed across the value chain, and the types of business value generated.

“As the technologies and business models surrounding the Industrial IoT and AR continue to mature, there are sure to be sequential trends in adoption,” said Mike Campbell, EVP, ThingWorx Platform, PTC. “PTC’s combination of market experience and access to an extensive volume of adoption data enable a truly comprehensive view of the state of these rapidly evolving markets.”

As cited in “The State of the Industrial Internet of Things” and “The State of Industrial Augmented Reality” reports, Industrial IoT and AR are no longer just emerging technologies to watch. Investing in these technologies has become the critical strategy for many organizations in 2018, particularly those in industries that have complex manufacturing and operational processes. Of PTC customers that have adopted Industrial IoT or AR technologies, 83 percent using Industrial IoT and 85 percent using AR had already transitioned, or plan to transition, their deployments to full-scale production environments within the next 12 months.

Highlights from the reports include:

The State of the Industrial Internet of Things

1. Industrial IoT adoption is currently dominated by large product manufacturers in industries such

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as industrial products (25 percent), electronic and high-tech (22 percent) automotive (13 percent), and aerospace and defense (11 percent).

2. The economic potential of the Industrial IoT has garnered the attention of the international communities and led to global initiatives aimed at fostering the growth of Industrial IoT worldwide.
3. A majority of applications in use today apply to manufacturing and operations (48 percent), where the data collected can be used to refine processes, predict maintenance requirements, and increase overall operational effectiveness.
4. The Industrial IoT is no longer an emerging technology - it has arrived. Industrial IoT deployments are in production today, across functions from product development through manufacturing and service.

The State of Industrial Augmented Reality

1. Industries such as industrial products (21 percent), automotive (11 percent), and aerospace and defense (8 percent) are leading the way in early AR adoption.
2. AR has broad applicability to all functions of the value chain, and especially service (19 percent) and manufacturing (18 percent).
3. The application of AR to serve as a powerful instruction and guidance tool is providing an entry point for many organizations, particularly those industries that are defined by hundreds of vital processes, such as real-time monitoring and increasing overall equipment effectiveness (OEE).
4. AR adoption is reaching a critical tipping point, spurred on by massive investments into the underlying hardware and software technologies that are enabling a rapid transition of pilot projects into full production environments.

To learn more about how the Industrial IoT and AR are impacting industries, download both “The State of the Industrial Internet of Things” and “The State of Industrial Augmented Reality” reports.

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Outstanding Visual Storytelling and Technological Innovation Pave the Way for Autodesk this Awards Season

26 February 2018

For the 23rd consecutive year, visual effects artists used software from [Autodesk, Inc.](#) to bring many of 2017's most memorable films and TV shows to audiences worldwide, including this year's five nominees for the Best Visual Effects Oscar.

Autodesk also celebrated the accomplishments of the Shotgun Software team, whose work was recognized with an Engineering Emmy from the Television Academy, as well as Sr. Software Engineer Hans Rijpkema, who received a Scientific and Technical Achievement Award (Sci-Tech) for his contributions to technology developed during his time at Rhythm & Hues visual effects and animation studio.

"Visual storytelling in Oscar-nominated films continues to advance at an impressive rate. We take pride

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in building tools that help artists bring riveting visuals and narratives to audiences everywhere," said Autodesk Senior Vice President, Amy Bunszel. "Autodesk congratulates all of the 2018 nominees on their exceptional work in contributing to this year's Academy Award-nominated films. We're also incredibly proud to see our talent earn top notch recognition."

Best Visual Effects Nominees Tap Autodesk Technology

In the Academy Awards Best Visual Effects category, all five nominated films — "Blade Runner 2049," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2," "Kong: Skull Island," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" and "War for the Planet of the Apes" — were created with help from Autodesk tools. Thousands of talented artists working out of visual effects studios across four continents produced outstanding visuals for all five films. Autodesk software was integral to work spanning previsualization, visual effects, virtual cinematography, post-production, color grading and beyond.

Shotgun Software Wins an Engineering Emmy

Each year, the Television Academy recognizes individuals, companies or organizations for innovative engineering developments that "materially affect the transmission, recording or reception of television." This past October, the [Shotgun team was awarded an Engineering Emmy](#) for building a collaborative platform which helps creative teams around the world get hundreds of episodes of top TV shows to air, including: Game of Thrones, The Americans, Quantico, Ballers, Scandal, Outlander, Black Mirror, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., Cosmos, Legion, Fear the Walking Dead, The Flash, Hawaii 5-0 and many others.

Autodesk Congratulates Hans Rijpkema On Second Sci-Tech Award

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences hosts an annual awards ceremony that honors triumphs demonstrating "[a proven record of contributing significant value to the process of making motion pictures](#)." This year, the Academy recognized Hans Rijpkema as he received a Technical Achievement Certificate alongside Joe Mancewicz and Matt Derksen for the design, architecture and implementation of the Rhythm & Hues Construction Kit rigging system.



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Parcus Group and PalTel Announce an Agreement

3 March 2018


Parcus Group announced today that it has signed an agreement with Palestine Telecommunications Co. (Paltel) to provide training services around telecom product development and product lifecycle management.

"Winning another telecom carrier contract this time with Paltel, confirms the benefits of our telecom specific orientation, and our rich training experience. Our aim is to, by close collaboration with our customers, improve telecom service creation and product development processes to deliver market competitive products while increasing staff productivity and skills at the same time" said Igor Glavanic, Managing Director of Parcus Group. "We are pleased to be collaborating with Paltel in this important undertaking."

"Paltel is developing its capabilities towards a more agile business. Parcus Group was able to demonstrate they had the skills and know-how to undertake the training required. They are focussed on business improvement, and we believe their telecom specific product development methodology will

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complement our market knowledge, and contribute positively to the growth and professional development of our staff and business.” added Adel Shakaa, Products & Services Department Head at Paltel.

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PROLIM wins Best MSME Award 2017

1 March 2018

PROLIM Solutions India Private Limited is proud to be the winner of INDIA 5000 BEST MSME AWARDS 2017’s award for innovation and an outstanding contribution in quality excellence.

India 5000 awards the PROLIM as the best MSME of the year 2017. This is an independent Business award program judged by a jury panel of expert of benchmark trust, an organizer of the INDIA5000 and audited by TQV. An exclusive ranking of India’s best MSME for their quality excellence is done before awarding a company as the Best MSME of the year.

Prabhu Patil, CEO of PROLIM, said “This is one more milestones for PROLIM Solutions India. It’s a proud moment for us. The award belongs to the PROLIM India Team, who diligently work to build a brand by enlightening the quality of service and support our clients.”

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Shoes For Crews is Stepping into the Future with Centric PLM

6 March 2018

Centric Software is delighted to announce the release of a success story about its customer, Shoes For Crews.

Shoes For Crews was founded in 1984, when husband-and-wife team Stanley and Arna Smith were running a home-based business producing nurses’ shoes and uniforms in New York.

Shoes For Crews started with a shortlist of six PLM vendors, which they quickly whittled down to two contenders. In December 2016, after a competitive process of applying PLM solutions to real-world data and scenarios, Shoes For Crews announced that it chose Centric.

“I’ve been doing PLM in the apparel and footwear space for the last fifteen years or so, I’m pretty familiar with the different players out there,” says Pam Buckingham, Director, PLM & Product

Development. “I had never worked with Centric personally, but upon lots of homework, investigation, interviews with colleagues and asking the Centric reps a million hard questions, Centric rose to the top as the best solution for Shoes For Crews.”

“We wanted to see how it would work for us in real use cases day to day, not just see presentations with dummy data. Centric has functionality, ease of use, consistency throughout the product, an agile approach and the ability to install and go live a lot faster...it’s very appealing, and I think it’s going to be easy for our users to adopt.”

Read full story to learn more.

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Staples Solutions Goes Live with PTC's Retail Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Solution

8 March 2018

PTC today announced that Staples Solutions, the leading provider of workplace products, services, and solutions to businesses across Europe, has gone live with PTC's market-leading retail solution [PTC FlexPLM®](#) to enable the acceleration of product development through improved efficiency.

Staples Solutions is the leading provider of workplace products, services, and solutions to small, mid-sized, and large businesses in Europe. The company offers office supplies, technology products and services, facilities and break-room supplies, furniture, copy and print services and a wide range of other product categories.

"We are developing an aggressive growth strategy initiative for our private label. With the flexibility and comprehensive capability of PTC FlexPLM, we expect to significantly improve employee efficiency and speed of innovation," said Aini Chong, brand manager, Staples Solutions. "Ultimately, we selected FlexPLM due to its out-of-the-box capability to manage our complex product portfolio, rapid deployment approach, robust cloud architecture, and overall user friendliness. After a 14-week implementation, we have been able to go live with phase 1 on-time and on-budget and are very excited to continue expansion and collaboration with PTC on this journey."

Staples Solutions has leveraged PTC's Software as a Service (SaaS) offering for full solution management and hosting. ITC Infotech, a PTC Service Partner, provided consulting services to enable rapid implementation, while reducing total cost of ownership and resource impact on the internal IT department.

"During its in-depth evaluation of the PLM marketplace, Staples discovered PTC's large community of manufacturing customers, with whom they will be able to share ideas, best practices, and strategy," said Eric Symon, general manager, Retail Business Unit, PTC. "We look forward to supporting this global leader in fulfilling its growth plans for its renowned private label."

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Swiss Coffee Alliance and Ambrosus Bring Digital Transformation to Global Coffee Markets

7 March 2018

Ambrosus and the Swiss Coffee Alliance are proud to announce a groundbreaking new partnership.

Combining Ambrosus' proprietary sensor-to-Blockchain technology and the SCA's robust network of farmers, roasters, product developers, manufacturers and retailers, this partnership has the potential to transform the \$81-billion global coffee market, unearthing new operating efficiencies.

Ambrosus Chief Executive Officer Angel Versetti said, "Swiss Coffee Alliance is one of the largest coffee trade-groups in Europe, and in the world. They play a vital role in the import/export dynamics of this market. We are excited to help the Alliance integrate the Ambrosus Blockchain into its consulting infrastructure, so we can together drive sustainable transformation, transparency and trust throughout

global coffee value chains."

Claudinei Monteiro, the SCA's chief technology officer, shared Versetti's enthusiasm, saying: "This is a truly transformative partnership that captures the full essence and spirit of Swiss ingenuity. With the Swiss Coffee Alliance's deep sector-expertise and Ambrosus' unrivaled decentralised supply-chain solution, we are going to create a more profitable and equitable ecosystem for all parties in the production line, with a key emphasis on those who have been abandoned by Wall Street."

This partnership aims to correct a key dysfunction in the global coffee value chain: The unethical distribution of profits throughout the ecosystem. Specifically, while global coffee revenues soared from \$30 billion in 1991 to \$81 billion in 2016, smallholder coffee farmers have seen their incomes wither from 40 percent to under 10 percent in the same period, according to Fairtrade International.

To make matters worse, farmers in the top producing countries -

Brazil, Colombia, Vietnam and Indonesia, which account for 60 percent of the world's production - live in poverty-line conditions, barely making enough money to cover the costs of production.

When you layer the coffee market's notorious price volatility and threat of climate change to crop yields, it becomes evident that global coffee supply chains need to be reimagined and fortified to give vulnerable, if not exploited, producers a fighting chance.

Coffee value-chain inequality is the problem that brought Ambrosus and the SCA together. Through the crosspollination of Ambrosus' next-generation Blockchain technology and smart- sensor hardware, with SCA's sector-specific expertise, this partnership is building the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable supply chain.

Ultimately, this alliance has the potential to make grower supply chains more efficient, so that the wild swings of the market, and the man-made degradation of mother nature, don't disenfranchise those who are most in need.

With Ambrosus and the Swiss Coffee Alliance leading the way, 2018 promises to be a fruitful year for an industry moving closer to a once-unthinkable equilibrium through the fusion of Blockchain and IoT innovation.



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Trace One and BRC Global Standards Form Strategic Partnership

28 February 2018

[Trace One](#) and [BRC Global Standards](#) have evolved their long-standing relationship to form a unique strategic partnership. By combining the BRC Global Standards' 26,000+ customers, including suppliers, retailers, certification bodies and auditors from 130 countries, with Trace One's 20,000+ customer base, it will create one of the largest retail collaborative networks in the world.

This partnership leverages Trace One's 16+ years of Private Label expertise, with the BRC Global Standards' experience in global supply chain assurance, enabling the delivery of industry leading solutions and significant speed to market benefits. In addition, by combining the power of both established networks into one platform, it will allow all customers to take advantage of identifying trusted partners and products, conducting audits, centralizing and sharing key documentation and

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managing both compliance and risk.

“BRC Global Standards is a highly trusted brand, and we are proud to evolve our relationship into a strategic partnership,” said **Christophe Vanackere, CEO at [Trace One](#)**. “Trace One customers will benefit from an increased network of potential trusted partners as well as new solution capabilities in the areas of auditing and compliance.”

BRC Global Standards customers will have access to a market leading solution which will enable them to improve compliance, conduct supplier approvals, execute mobile audits, and manage risk. In addition, they can also leverage Trace One Insight to take advantage of actionable intelligence in key business areas, enabling them to identify opportunities to improve brand and consumer protection.

“As part of our growth strategy, we want to provide our customers with market leading solutions across the supply chain,” said **Mark Proctor, CEO at [BRC Global Standards](#)**. “Partnering with Trace One enables us to provide a platform that our global customers can use to manage compliance and protect their brands. Through Trace One we can offer our customers an enhanced service that will significantly help to understand the supply chain. The insight and data collection across multiple sources will be a real step forward.”

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Events News

Minerva is official sponsor of ACE US 2018

6 March 2018

Minerva today announced that the company is official sponsor at the ACE US 2018 conference held in Indianapolis, USA on 20th to 22nd of March.

The gathering is the premier event in the United States that connects the most innovative product development, IT and manufacturing teams from Automotive, Aerospace & Defense, High Tech Electronics, Industrial and Medical Device Manufacturing to shape the future of PLM.

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.

For more details, agenda and registration visit: <http://www.cvent.com/events/ace-us-2018/event-summary-6ca99083e67d4ea2a98f75c97c00a2c7.aspx>

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Patti Engineering to Exhibit at Manufacturing in America in Detroit, Sharing Siemens Integration

Expertise March 14-15, 2018

6 March 2018

Patti Engineering, Inc. today announced its participation in Manufacturing in America 2018, hosted by Siemens and Electro-Matic Products. The event will take place March 14-15, 2018 at Ford Field in Detroit. Patti Engineering will be exhibiting for the 9th consecutive year and will present two technical seminars for conference attendees.

The Manufacturing in America (MiA) conference brings together executives, engineers and enthusiasts from the manufacturing community to network, learn about the newest technologies, and share best practices. MiA is held annually in Detroit, which has the second largest concentration of engineers in the country.

Patti Engineering's interactive exhibit will feature MindSphere, the Internet of Things (IoT) platform from Siemens. Patti Engineering is the first Hybrid Operational Technology (OT) Partner for MindSphere in the US. The exhibit will be located both on the field and at their booth on the concourse.

For the second year, the MiA presents The Summit, exploring how digitalization is shaping the future of manufacturing. The Summit will feature thought-provoking presentations and discussions with leading manufacturing industry experts. Including a keynote presentation by one of the country's most informed and respected economists, Dr. Alan Beaulieu, principal at ITR Economics.

In addition to The Summit, the MiA offers over 100 focused educational seminars, 50 hands-on product demonstrations, and networking opportunities. On Thursday, March 15th, the networking area will display the opening games for the NCAA tournament. The event is attended by over 2,600 professionals from over 800 companies.

"The Manufacturing in America event is a highlight on our annual calendar," said Sam Hoff, founder and CEO of Patti Engineering. "As it has grown over the years, it is accelerating the adoption of new technology and best practices in our region. We appreciate the partnership with Siemens and Electro-Matic to bring our interactive, IoT-focused display to attendees this year."

To learn more and register, visit <http://www.attendmia.com>



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Plastic Mould Automation To Be Highlighted at MECSPE

8 March 2018

Vero Software's Italian reseller, Vero Solutions, are highlighting three specialist VISI CAD/CAM suites focusing on plastic mould automation and verticalization, at the forthcoming MECSPE exhibition in Parma.

"These three tools integrate perfectly with each other, automating an entire plastic mould project," says Marketing Executive Nicoletta Gianotti.

"The VISI Mould solution is dedicated to the complete design of the mould and allows the designer to define the tool structure by importing data either from the supplier or with custom moulds. Based on this

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choice, the user can select different templates, by selecting the relative plates loading them by supplier or by defining a modelled plate as custom plate by using the CAD functionalities.”

She says visitors to the Vero Solutions stand at the exhibition will see how a custom plate can be added to the mould structure and modified, by assigning the proper attributes. And where the supplier provides template, VISI Mould shows the default structure which can be modified by the user, and additional plates added, or existing plate parameters can be modified. “It’s also possible to use pre-holed plates defined by the suppliers”.

The VISI Express solution is fully integrated into the VISI work environment and allows the "normalization" of the PMI data associated with each component in the mould design. “In this way the B.O.M. generation becomes a simple mouse click. The sheet can be customized and either contain all project components or only those needed at any one time.

“For example, with the steel component list, it’s easy to anticipate material orders to suppliers. VISI Express is at the heart of plastic mould management because each generated part can be linked to an image, so it’s easily recognized in the workshop.”

And Nicoletta Gianotti says as a considerable number of electrodes are often necessary in a plastic mould, VISI Electrode intuitively defines the area on the mould where the electrode will be positioned, dynamically extracts the surface and defines its final shape.

“The benefit of solids and surfaces combined modelling in the CAD environment make the designer’s job so much easier. A hierarchical tree structure shows the description of all electrodes and their parameters for each plate, in a single file.”

To ensure that the electrode is correct, the kinematic simulation verifies the positioning of the electrode and adjacent surfaces, highlighting any areas to be corrected.

During the design phase, all technological parameters of the electrode can be inserted, so the next step to EDM machining or CAM milling is already automated and error-free.

“These three solutions lead to automation and verticalization of the plastic mould project, reduce costs and increase the product quality.”

Vero Solutions at MECSPE 2018 – PARMA – 22 - 24 March - HALL 6 BOOTH C49



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Financial News

Altair to Announce Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2017 Financial Results on March 21, 2018

6 March 2018

Altair Engineering Inc. today announced that it will release its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year 2017, ended December 31, 2017, after the market close on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. On that day, management will hold a conference call and webcast at 4:30 p.m. ET (1:30 p.m. PT) to review and discuss the Company’s results for the fourth quarter. A recorded version of this webcast will be available after the call and accessible at <http://investor.altair.com>.

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Spinnaker Support Announces Full Year 2017 Performance Results

1 March 2018

Spinnaker Support today announced performance results for its full fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The company reported record sales growth, employee count, and customer satisfaction level for the full year ending December 31, 2017.

"2017 was another record year of growth and high-performance for Spinnaker Support," stated Matt Stava, Spinnaker Support CEO. "Demand for our unique and expanding blend of Oracle and SAP services has never been higher. Our customers are rating us at record high satisfaction levels because the value proposition we offer them is unparalleled in the industry. In 2018, we are off to the fastest start in the company's history and anticipate another record-breaking year."

2017 Company Highlights

- Increased net new sales by 44.2%, spearheaded by Oracle E-Business Suite, Oracle Technology, and SAP application services
- Opened new operations centers in Moscow, Seoul, and Tokyo, and expanded resources in Brazil
- Grew employee count by 35.4%, expanding resources across all nine operations centers
- Improved customer satisfaction level to 98.7% while customer willingness to recommend remained at 99.7%, per the year-end 2017 customer satisfaction survey
- Opened Technology Center of Excellence (TCE), under newly-appointed CTO Iain Saunderson, to accelerate the addition and expansion of high-value technology support services to protect SAP and Oracle users as they advance from on-premise to hybrid to full cloud
- Launched expanded Security and Vulnerability Protection service, powered by Alert Logic, that combines full technology stack protection, accessible security and application experts, and 24 x 7 x 365 monitoring for proactive threat prevention
- The first third-party support vendor to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification
- Honored as Gold Stevie® Award Winner for 2017 Customer Service Department of the Year
- Recognized by CIO Outlook Magazine as a Top 25 SAP Solution Provider in Asia Pacific
- Awarded 2017 Top Workplace by the Denver Post

Customer Wins and Testimonials

Spinnaker Support reported that customer wins are coming from more geographically diverse locations, including the emerging markets of South Korea, Malaysia, Brazil, and Russia. Of the record number of deals signed in 2017, more than one-third were headquartered outside of the United States.

"Though our initial driver to investigate third-party Oracle support was a company-wide initiative to make sustainable savings, the incremental benefits we are receiving from Spinnaker Support are advantageous for our IT organization," stated AlMutaz Mah'd, Head of ICT and SSC at Alamar Foods, a Saudi-Arabia based food services company. "The fast response time, support for customized code, and

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fact that the first person we speak to is an Oracle expert are all incredible advantages we have on the IT team now."

"As a leading continuous availability solution provider, Stratus recognizes the importance of high quality service, value, and commitment," stated Bobby Chung, Senior IT Manager, Stratus Technologies. "Choosing Spinnaker Support for our Oracle E-Business Suite products was a result of assessing our former support providers against these values. Savings we get from Spinnaker Support allow us to find and fund innovative ways to advance our own service and technology solutions."

"Consistent delivery of high-value, best-in-industry Oracle and SAP support is job one," said Bob Harland, SVP, Global Support Services at Spinnaker Support. "We will continue to invest a greater percentage of revenues to build a broader range of employee skillsets and to expand our service offerings and capabilities globally. We are the only third-party support provider to achieve both ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification, highlighting our strong commitment to quality management principles that result in highly satisfied customers. Most importantly, Spinnaker Support will continue to deliver support the right way, always respecting the intellectual property rights of others."

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Implementation Investments

Corporativo Ivonne S.A. De C.V. Selects Visual Next as End-To-End Fashion Software Provider

6 March 2018

Visual Next is delighted to announce that it has been selected by Mexican women's apparel, footwear, and accessories brand, Ivonne S.A. de C.V., to implement their suite of fashion business software solutions.

A proudly Mexican and quality garment brand for over 60 years, Ivonne S.A. de C.V.'s designs are worn by women in Mexico. Ivonne S.A. de C.V. began as an apparel retailer but has since grown into a large enterprise that designs and manufactures four distinct clothing lines.

"We are pleased to work with such a flourishing brand," said Sam Edery, International Business Development. "We are confident that Visual Next's array of software, including our PLM and ERP suite, will greatly benefit Ivonne S.A. de C.V. by coordinating and streamlining their processes across manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and retail locations."

Presently, the Ivonne brand is sold in over 50 locations, including flagship stores, outlets, and department stores. Rather than manufacturing in Asia, the brand keeps manufacturing at home in Mexico and in South America, while opting to source and import fabric and materials from France, Spain, Germany, and Italy. In order to manage design, sourcing, production, and sales, Ivonne S.A. de C.V. will utilize Visual Next's PLM, ERP, WMS, SFA, POS suite of software.

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Dot Foods Selects Tenzing to Host its Product Information Management Application

7 March 2018

Dot Foods has selected Tenzing to be the hosting and managed services provider in conjunction with the implementation of the EnterWorks' Enable® Product Information Management (PIM) platform. Dot Foods delivers to distributors in the challenging less-than-truckload (LTL) sector in every state and over 35 countries and is a founding member of the GS1 US Foodservice Initiative.

Dot Foods' mission is to develop innovative solutions to help their food industry partners increase sales and profits. The decision to invest in a PIM/MDM platform and in the new hosting capabilities is rooted in the desire to strengthen content and supply chain capabilities as well as further their ecommerce growth across their extensive trading network. As part of extending the company's leadership in an increasingly complex and digital food industry, the company leadership chose EnterWorks' Enable, an enterprise-wide application and GS1-certified solution to provide trusted product content for the 127,000 products Dot Foods carries.

Dot Foods understands the importance of updating its product content system as it operates in the B2B sector that now must match the vibrant, customized user experiences expected in consumer-driven B2C commerce. Enable will allow Dot Foods to improve customer experiences by centralizing product information, syncing product content with product inventory, and improving connectivity with industry data pools and networks. Not only does it stand to enhance customer experience, it will give them an informational advantage over the competition. The project parallels other cutting-edge initiatives throughout Dot Foods.

Upon its selection, EnterWorks referred to Dot Foods their #1 hosting provider and strategic partner, Tenzing. Last year the two companies agreed on a partnership to build a collaboration network for more powerful, flexible commerce solutions. Tenzing responded to the challenge by crafting a unique solution to leverage the full power of EnterWorks' PIM/MDM system by hosting it on Amazon Web Services.

Dot Foods ultimately selected Tenzing due to their expertise with the EnterWorks application and their proven track record of [managing ecommerce environments in the public cloud](#). Tenzing will provide strategic consulting and hosting services to Dot Foods, allowing them to devote attention and resources on innovating their redistribution networks.


Brian LeDuc, Chief Information Officer at Dot Foods, looks forward to the stability and flexibility Tenzing and its partner will provide. "This investment exemplifies our core competency of being the best technology-enabled food-related redistribution company. We go beyond actively seeking out the best technology — we sign on top experts who can onboard, manage and optimize the technologies to keep pace with our goals. It is simply the next chapter in our ongoing evolution of improving how our software services are managed to get the best value and services for Dot overall."

Kerry Young, Chief Operating Officer at EnterWorks, comments that "the opportunity to work with Tenzing is always a pleasure as a trusted and reliable partner. Our teams have the expertise and technology to enact the most creative, efficient solution possible for meeting Dot Foods' needs now and into the future as the food industry evolves to meet digital challenges."

The upcoming collaboration with EnterWorks demonstrates the dynamic nature of Tenzing's cloud offering. As Tenzing is the only Cloud managed services provider focused on both ecommerce and MDM, the company is uniquely positioned to help Dot Foods achieve the innovation it seeks for its customers. Greg Wong, Chief Revenue Officer at Tenzing, notes that "Working with Dot Foods and

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

being recommended by EnterWorks validates the significant investments that Tenzing continues to make into our [PIM practice](#). By leveraging the EnterWorks Enable platform on our AWS cloud, Dot Foods' business model is going to see transformative changes in power, scalability, and flexibility."

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Heineken Toasts Production Success with Infor

1 March 2018

[Infor](#) today announced that international brewing leader Heineken International has selected [Infor Advanced Scheduling](#) for a global standardization program that will see the application rolled out to its breweries in 20 countries. Infor Advanced Scheduling is expected to play a key role in helping to harmonize and standardize approximately 90% of the operations in these breweries, helping Heineken to optimize capacity across this network, reduce production complexity and improve purchasing power.

The project is the latest phase of a relationship between Infor and Heineken that spans more than 20 years. Following a pilot in two breweries in Italy, Heineken now has a template to implement throughout operating companies across the globe.

Based on this template, and previous experience, Heineken expects to decrease levels of inventory of materials such as glass bottles by up to 40%, whilst improving capacity by up to 10% and helping enhance the consistency of workload scheduling in the breweries.

Following a selection process, Infor was chosen on the basis of the enhanced functionality offered by Infor Advanced Scheduling as well as Infor's deep domain expertise within the brewing micro vertical.

Heineken also uses [Infor Advanced Planning](#) as part of its sales and operational planning (S&OP) process. The brewer uses a monthly S&OP cycle that takes third party application data and experiments for various scenarios across 18 months, including promotions, capacity shifts and the introduction of new products.

"It is vital for us to reduce complexity in our operations and keep control of production," said Ad van Delzen, strategic planner, Heineken. "Strategic applications such as Infor Advanced Scheduling mean that we can extend this control across our breweries and offer a route to improved profitability and much greater efficiency, without losing the individual characteristics of that brewery or beer."

"The brewing micro vertical is one of the most complex manufacturing industries," said Phil Lewis, vice-president, global solution consulting, Infor. "By standardizing operations, there are often very quick wins that can be realized and then augmented by quicker new product introduction or better alignment of production and customer demand. Leaders such as Heineken recognize this and have the added opportunity to repeat this process at scale. This optimal alignment means businesses can handle vast complexity with confidence."

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Marimekko Renews its Contract with First Insight

6 March 2018

[First Insight, Inc.](#) today announced that Marimekko has extended its partnership agreement. First Insight's consumer-driven predictive analytics are helping the Finnish design company get closer to its customers by gathering real-time data to drive more accurate product-related decisions.

In 2016, Marimekko implemented [InsightSuite](#), First Insight's predictive analytics platform that enables retailers and manufactures to select, price, market and buy new products with no sales history. In that time frame, the company was able to hone in on designs that would resonate best with customers.

Marimekko is a Finnish design company renowned for its original prints and colors. The company's product portfolio includes high-quality clothing, bags and accessories as well as home décor items ranging from textiles to tableware.

"Customer input has become a crucial tool for picking successful designs. Our customers are excited to be included in our new product creation process and are responding at high rates to our requests for input," says Päivi Lonka, Chief Sales Officer at Marimekko.

First Insight uses online social engagement tools to gather real-time preference, pricing and sentiment data on potential product offerings. The information is filtered through the company's predictive analytic models to determine which products present the greatest opportunity.

"Marimekko's products are sold in over 40 countries, and each one has specific tastes and wants," said Greg Petro, CEO and founder of First Insight. "By leveraging the voice of the customer through predictive analytics, Marimekko will increase speed to market with trend-right products at the right price."



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McDermott Awarded Detailed Engineering and Long Lead Procurement for the BP Cassia C Compression Platform

5 March 2018

McDermott International, Inc. announced today it has been awarded a detailed engineering and long lead procurement services contract from BP Trinidad & Tobago, LLC (bpTT) for the Cassia C Compression Platform, located 40 miles (65 kilometers) off the southeast coast of Trinidad and Tobago.

The contract follows McDermott's award for the engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning (EPCIC) contract for the Angelin project by bpTT last year. "This award is significant as we continue to build our relationship with bpTT through strong collaboration and predictability in our execution," said Scott Munro, McDermott's Vice President for Americas, Europe and Africa. "We plan to leverage off our successful experience with BP on the Angelin project."


The Cassia C Compression project includes a new unmanned compression platform for the existing Cassia complex. The facility will provide gas compression to the Cassia complex via a new bridge connected to Cassia B. Cassia C is bpTT's third Cassia platform, handling gas coming from its operations in the prolific Columbus basin.

McDermott expects to use the Project Lifecycle Management (PLM) module from its new digital

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platform Gemini XD to deliver advanced technology through project execution and the development of a digital twin of the complete system.

McDermott's team in Houston plans to lead the engineering and execution with support from the Company's engineering center in Chennai, India.

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Ternua Group chooses Lectra Fashion PLM 4.0

6 March 2018

Lectra is pleased to announce that the Ternua Group has chosen Lectra Fashion PLM 4.0 to increase their geographical presence by improving global teamwork.

Founded in 1994, the Ternua Group has achieved worldwide success by promoting adventure through respect for nature, producing sustainable technical clothing for outdoor sports enthusiasts worldwide. The group's strong commitment to the environment is shown through their R&D that focuses on developing their own fabric by using ecofriendly materials such as organic cotton and recycled down.

Today, the group's portfolio includes three brands Ternua, Astore and Lorpen, currently exporting to more than 50 countries, with operations in Europe, America and Asia. Compounding this global success, the ambitious group plans to penetrate more markets across the globe.

The group is implementing Lectra Fashion PLM 4.0 into their entire production process. Specifically developed to help fashion companies navigate the digital era, this modular and user-friendly solution will help the Ternua Group centralize and store information coming from their brands by digitalizing their supply chain. This will connect all teams involved in the design-to-production process, regardless of geographic location. Team members will also be able to communicate better with external suppliers, access accurate information and keep track of every collection's development progress. The group can hence speed up the entire production process and help their brands deliver their collections to markets all over the world on time.

"We manage our design and product development processes in-house but outsource our production in Europe, north of Africa and Asia. For our business to expand globally, we need to go fully digital. By having a system that consolidates and standardizes data coming from all supply chain actors across the world, we can respond faster to consumer demand," explains Aitor Barinaga, Chief Operations Officer, Ternua Group. "We have assessed all other vendors—and Lectra Fashion PLM 4.0 is clearly the winner. It has the ability to fully integrate all processes and improve communication and teamwork across all departments through sound data management. We are more than happy to have a trusted partner as Lectra for such an ambitious project."

"Ternua Group is constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation. This is shown through their desire to help customers achieve their personal best by providing them with high-performance technical wear that is also environmentally friendly. We are thrilled to embark on this new journey with the Ternua Group, and we are confident that our solution and expertise will help them get their collections out to new markets on time," says Rodrigo Siza, Managing Director, Spain and Portugal, Lectra.

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Product News

CONTACT's IoT platform is "Factory Software of the Year"

5 March 2018

The renowned Application Center for Industry 4.0 at the University of Potsdam has evaluated and selected the leading solutions in its "Factory Software of the Year" competition. The finalists presented their software in mid-February at the Factory Software Congress 2018 in Frankfurt. The winners in the various categories were CONTACT Software (Internet of Things), CSB System (complete ERP solution), Jungheinrich (logistics), software4production (Industry 4.0) and ZF Friedrichshafen (process excellence).

CONTACT Software convinced the jury of consultants, scientists and media with its clear commitment to open source components and the innovative life cycle approach of its open Elements for IoT platform. Their coordinated software building blocks help the industry to develop smart products for the Internet of Things and to implement new value-added services such as predictive maintenance.

The jury evaluated the presented solutions according to differently weighted criteria. The concrete customer benefit of 23 percent was decisive, followed by adherence to standards and interoperability of the solution (22 percent). Platform suitability was weighted at 17 percent. Further criteria were investments in research and development as well as in customer communication.

"All participants in the competition have demonstrated a high level of solution competence with regard to the digital transformation," said Prof. Dr. -Ing. Norbert Gronau, Scientific Director of the Application Center Industry 4.0 at the University of Potsdam and Chairman of the jury, at the award ceremony. According to Gronau, this output density proves impressively that German companies are also highly competitive internationally in the field of digitization.



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Cortona3D Releases RapidAuthor 10.1 with Improved Import and Update Options

1 March 2018

Cortona3D announces the launch of RapidAuthor 10.1, a new version of its leading authoring tool that enables enterprises to reuse existing PLM data and CAD assets to author lightweight, interactive 3D/2D technical publications. RapidAuthor 10.1 offers new import configuration abilities to improve visual quality of 3D graphics. Normal-per-vertex information can be imported from CAD geometry, as well as additional types of VRML geometry nodes e.g. Text and Extrusion.

RapidAuthor for Teamcenter 10.1 provides significant improvements in data update. It is possible to select in the Update Wizard, which metadata values should be updated. Metadata conflicts, when metadata value changes both in source data and in the project, are highlighted in the Update Wizard and such updates are not accepted by default, the change in the project has priority.

Cortona3D has re-designed 3D PDF generation to empower 3D PDF Publishing in RapidAuthor 10.1 that allows for lifting some technological limits of former 3D PDF publications and support cross sections in step-by-step instructions and parts catalogs. Publishing to 3D PDF will work not only in 32-bit as previously, but also in 64-bit versions of RapidAuthor. 32-bit components are removed from the

64-bit installer, making it almost twice smaller.

RapidAuthor allows for automatic creation of 2D CGM images from 3D models and adjusting them in Cortona2D Editor Pro. The new version of the 2D editor has many enhancements in operating on the active layer that result in time-savings in the authoring process. Release 10.1 offers a wide range of new editing features for 2D CGM images in Cortona2D Editor Pro, including the user-requested feature that the drawing tool is active till another tool is chosen.

Other changes in the new release include:

- Improved generation of callouts that simplifies the editing process.
- Support of the latest version of S1000D – Issue 4.2.
- Support of CAD data import is extended with new CAD formats: CATIA V5_6R2017, Inventor 2018, Parasolid v30, ACIS 2017.1 (R27), SolidWorks 2018, SolidEdge ST10, and AutoCAD (up to 2018) data.

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Kuehne + Nagel's New Digital Collaborative Platform Drives Efficiency Gains for International Supply Chain Customers

2 March 2018

Kuehne + Nagel's new comprehensive supply chain management platform, KN ESP, offers a modular architecture to connect international supply chain customers with their vendors, their buyers and sellers, Kuehne + Nagel's physical assets and experts, and their cargo flows. Improvements in supplier reliability and product availability will be enabled through control of the full product life cycle, from sourcing, quality control, purchase order negotiation and management, to commercial invoice release, buyer's consolidation, transportation and delivery. With predictive analytics and artificial intelligence, KN ESP optimises orders and prioritises transportation decisions based on a set of customer's defined business rules, cost and service options.

It is an addition to the KN technology suite for medium to large customers providing them with the most comprehensive response to complex supply chain needs. This includes an ongoing strategic partnership with GT Nexus.

“KN ESP unique features provide a synchronised, transparent and collaborative supply chain platform that eliminates communication frictions no matter how many systems or players are involved,” says Otto Schacht, Member of the Managing Board of Kuehne + Nagel International AG, responsible for Seafreight. “It is part of our digital strategy to become a data-driven value chain provider. The implementation of KN ESP strengthens our position in the international supply chain business and supports our customers to achieve long-term competitive edge.”

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LEDAS Cloud Platform Integrates Smoothly with C3D Toolkit

28 February 2018

LEDAS Ltd. and C3D Labs announced the successful integration of their products. The LEDAS Cloud Platform (LCP) was bridged with [C3D](#) to achieve better performance and quality when working with real-life user models. Before this, LCP had already been coupled with an open-source B-rep geometric kernel and 3D modeling library, so that the new integration was achieved smoothly and in a short timeframe. This proved that LCP can be easily bridged with any general-purpose geometric modeling kernel.

LEDAS Cloud Platform provides most popular and most requested [cloud capabilities](#) — data storage and management, 3D visualization, communication and collaboration — by bringing them to users through Web browsers. Several [applications](#) have been developed on the LCP platform to deliver even more complex and specific user functions, such as editing and analyzing 3D models on the Web. These applications were developed much more quickly than usual thanks to the added value of LCP available to licensees. LEDAS, as a long-time provider of [software development services](#), is able to develop any features requested by customers.

The main functions that LCP needs from a 3D kernel is to read and tessellate CAD data into triangular meshes, which are used on the browser side for visualization, navigation, mark-up, and other user interactions. By employing additional data structures, LCP maintains a map between triangular meshes and CAD data, and provides a bi-directional work flow between client and server. Operations done by users on the client side trigger corresponding operations on server side, which modify the 3D model accordingly. Once all operations are done, the CAD and mesh models are saved in users' spaces on cloud data storage sites for sharing and later reuse.

"We have a long-term partnership with LEDAS, which embodies [development](#), reselling, and several joint marketing activities," said Oleg Zykov, CEO of C3D Labs. "Some of our customers and partners have expressed their interest in the LCP platform developed by LEDAS, and so we consider this integration an advantageous step up in the market. The results demonstrated that the performance from the integration of LCP using our commercial C3D Toolkit — which includes the geometric kernel, a data format converter, and other components — is much better than using open source kernels, if a licensee is really interested in quality and speed. The licensing conditions of C3D Toolkit and LEDAS Cloud Platform are quite flexible and attractive not only for well-established companies, but also for ambitious start-ups."

"Using C3D is a big plus for us because it provides conversion between popular CAD formats, including STEP, IGES, X_T/X_B, SAT, and many mesh formats," said Nikolay Snytnikov, the head of the LCP project at LEDAS. "It is not a big secret that reading/conversion/writing of CAD data between STEP and other formats can cause some things to be 'lost in translation.' So, using a commercial kernel proven by many thousands of end-user customers is a big plus. Also, because of the strong and flexible architecture of LCP, the integration of the C3D kernel was done easily in a straightforward manner."

"LEDAS Cloud Platform is a useful and flexible way to put your CAD applications and functions on the cloud," said Alexey Ershov, CEO of LEDAS. "Having both LCP and C3D on board means that 3D Web capabilities are now combined with powerful 3D modeling functions. This puts customers in the favorable position of developing only those specific functions needed for their solutions, because standard functions are already in place. So customers' solutions are developed much faster than usual, and at a lower price. If to save money a customer prefers to use an open-source 3D modeling kernel,

then it is possible, because LEDAS Cloud Platform is also integrated with an open-source 3D kernel."

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PTC Introduces New Augmented Reality Capabilities and Spatial Tracking with Creo AR

6 March 2018

PTC today announced the release of the Creo® AR Design Share solution, which further expands the ability of product designers and engineers to use augmented reality (AR) in product design. AR is an essential technology for product designers, allowing them to share designs instantly, experience their product at scale, and better collaborate with colleagues anywhere in the world.

Creo is the only CAD software on the market with easy-to-use AR capabilities integrated into the software. Now with Creo AR Design Share, powered by the ThingWorx Studio™ solution, users will be able to create and share experiences easily.

“Creo AR Design Share takes a complex technology and makes it easy-to-use and accessible in a way that enables companies to fundamentally change the way they design and develop their products,” said Mike Campbell, EVP, ThingWorx Platform, PTC. “With AR, designs are brought to life in full-scale and in real-world context, giving a perspective that is normally lost on a 2D screen. These AR capabilities can ultimately save companies time, money, and effort.”

Creo AR Design Share gives users full control over authoring and accessibility for all AR experiences. Spatial tracking, powered by the Vuforia Engine, makes it even easier to share experiences with a simple link and the free ThingWorx View™ App. The extended AR capabilities in Creo enable companies to reduce time-to-market and product development cost, increase quality and innovation, and protect intellectual property.

To learn more about Creo AR Design Share, please visit: <https://www.ptc.com/-/media/Files/PDFs/CAD/Creo/Creo-AR-Design-Share.pdf>.

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SAP Cloud Platform Simplifies App Development and Accelerates Customer Innovation

26 February 2018

[SAP SE](#) today announced a new consumption-based commercial model for customers to easily acquire and engage [SAP Cloud Platform](#), the company’s platform as a service (PaaS).

Additional updates include the next-generation SAP Cloud Platform SDK for iOS, which allows customers to easily extend enterprise apps and processes to mobile devices. The announcement was made at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, being held February 26–March 1.

SAP Cloud Platform is the foundation of [SAP Leonardo](#), SAP’s digital innovation system. Together they enable rapid innovation and empower customers to become “intelligent enterprises,” ready for the 21st century.

“The new consumption-based commercial model for SAP Cloud Platform makes it even easier for our

CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

customers and partners to build and extend innovative solutions utilizing our increasing portfolio of platform and business services,” said Björn Goerke, SAP Cloud Platform president and chief technology officer. “Innovations in mobile delivery with consumer-grade experiences via our new SAP Cloud Platform SDK for iOS give organizations more freedom and agility to create and reinvent their businesses.”

SAP Cloud Platform: The Foundation for the Intelligent Enterprise

The new consumption-based commercial model for SAP Cloud Platform provides a simpler, low-touch customer experience for configuring and using SAP Cloud Platform services. Cloud credits are easily acquired, and available SAP Cloud Platform services can be quickly activated using a single provisioning cockpit. This allows customers to innovate on their terms and at their own pace. In addition, the new commercial model provides transparency into the usage of each service consumed through regular metering, reporting and detailed accounting analytics on the customer’s cloud credit consumption and balance. This makes it easier for customers to identify, procure and monitor needed services for their applications on a timely basis.

Customers can visit the newly designed web experience cloudplatform.sap.com to explore, test, price and estimate SAP Cloud Platform usage for any innovation project, all within a single site. This new model makes innovating with SAP Cloud Platform even simpler, while offering greater agility and flexibility for enterprises of all sizes. For more details read [the blog](#) by Bertram Schulte, chief digital officer at SAP.

The enhanced SAP Cloud Platform SDK for iOS provides an engaging consumer-grade mobile work experience with new controls and tighter integration with the [Xcode](#) integrated development environment, as well as integration with other capabilities within SAP Cloud Platform for delivering powerful enterprise mobile apps. It also supports consumption of SAP Leonardo services, such as image recognition from a mobile app. Customers can now access application programming interfaces from [SAP API Business Hub](#) within the apps, as well as easily translate apps using SAP Translation Hub. In addition, new analytic controls enable real-time data analytics and visualizations within mobile apps from SAP S/4HANA, SAP Cloud Platform Big Data Services and the SAP HANA business data platform. Additional updates make it easy to use iOS device capabilities in end-to-end processes for administrative tasks, such as onboarding.

[Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A.U.](#) (CEPSA), a Spanish multinational oil and gas company, uses SAP Cloud Platform to meet the emerging needs of oil and gas energy users.

“We needed an innovative platform for app development, and SAP Cloud Platform SDK for iOS was a natural choice,” CEPSA Chief Information Officer Joaquín Reyes said. “By integrating our SAP back-end applications and developing iOS apps for order fulfillment and payment processing, we were able to streamline our business processes throughout our entire value chain. As a result, our employees, partners and service-station managers are now able to improve the overall customer experience.”

SAP introduced two new iOS mobile apps: SAP Insurance Sales Assistant enables the insurance agent to effectively manage all sales activities by providing comprehensive customer insights through a 360-degree customer view and an overview of performance KPIs. SAP Asset Manager leverages the digital core with SAP S/4HANA as well as SAP Cloud Platform as the Internet of Things platform for managing work orders, notifications, condition monitoring, material consumption, time management and failure analysis.



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Selerant Simplifies Process-Based PLM for Food & Beverage Manufacturers with Release of DevEX Baseline

6 March 2018

Selerant today announced the release of its new DevEX Baseline System for food and beverage manufacturers.

From idea to label, Selerant's core DevEX PLM platform enables companies to unify and control critical aspects of New Product Development and Introduction (NPDI), including innovation and R&D, specification and formulation management, product portfolio management, compliance, and packaging.

"DevEX Baseline for food and beverage saves time, resources and overall implementation costs by leveraging our state-of-the-art predefined templates, documents and configuration tools that are all tightly integrated within Selerant's proven and world-class project management best practices," said Federico Fontanella, Director of Product Management at Selerant.

DevEX Baseline's three configuration profiles offer PLM options for any food and beverage company, regardless of size or maturity of existing processes around PLM:

- Express Configuration is for companies that need standard product data and do not have well-defined business processes for change control of the product data.
- Standard Configuration is for companies that want to control product development with structured status management phases and more detailed product data templates.
- Plus Configuration is for companies with complex business processes that need version control, specification templates, and process reporting.


DevEX PLM Baseline Food and Beverage Templates include:

- Ingredients Management: Implements creation, approval, promotion and activation processes for ingredients and their specifications.
- Packaging Management: Implements creation, approval and activation processes for packaging materials and their specifications.
- Finished Product Management: Implements creation, approval and activation processes for finished products and their specifications.
- Product Development: Food and beverage driven formula development integrated with approval workflows for recipes and their specifications.
- Regulatory: Implements single and multi-product labels, nutritional parameters and regulatory substances management.
- Product type specific functionalities: juices, alcoholic beverages and cereal products.

"Food manufacturers need to get products to shelf faster than ever while remaining compliant, and our DevEX Baseline system can help them get up and running in a fraction of the time a complex PLM implementation typically takes," said Sunil Thomas, Selerant's Chief Operations Officer, North America.

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Existing core DexEX customers can obtain an assessment of their current installation to determine potential efficiencies incorporating DevEX Baseline. For more information or to request a demo visit: www.selerant.com/devex-baseline.

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Yokogawa Releases Device Lifecycle Management

1 March 2018

Yokogawa Electric Corporation announces the introduction of Device Lifecycle Management, a new IIoT cloud-based service for the management of information on plant assets. This is an information management support service for the digitized asset data of the IIoT era. The Device Lifecycle Management service allows customers to digitalize the management of all device information and helps customers to improve the efficiency of plant maintenance management and the quality of data management.

Development Background

Digitization of asset information is an important key to the automation of and the realization of efficiency in asset management. Many of Yokogawa's customers have already introduced solutions such as computerized maintenance management systems (CMMS) to optimize efficiency, but not all have met their initial targets for improvements in the efficiency of their maintenance operations because they have encountered challenges in making full use of all their asset data. This solution was developed to meet this need.

Features

The major features of this service are as follows:

1. Centralized device list

Information on all purchased devices including documentation is linked to the device tags and serial numbers. By accessing the Device Lifecycle Management portal, users enjoy prompt access to the right information on both online and offline devices. Dashboards on the portal provide a comprehensive summary that details the number of spare devices, installed devices, and disposed devices.

2. Collaboration with existing CMMS

Device information registered using the Device Lifecycle Management portal can be easily exported to a CMMS, which saves time and improves accuracy by eliminating a process (the reinput of data) that can result in data entry errors.

3. Compatibility search

When an instrument fails and there is no spare device in inventory, this function helps to determine whether other devices in the spare parts inventory are compatible with the failed device.

4. Mobile application

A mobile application for the Device Lifecycle Management service has been developed. With this application, maintenance staff in the field can easily access device specifications and other types of documentation, confirm operating procedures, and check the compatibility between devices.

Major Target Markets

Process industries such as petrochemicals, oil, chemicals, pulp and paper, electric power, iron and steel, pharmaceuticals, and food

Applications

Assisting in execution of the plan-do-check-action (PDCA) cycle by providing access to data on plant assets

Value Creation with Device Lifecycle Management

The newly developed Device Lifecycle Management service helps to minimize the amount of manual work that must be performed and improves the management of devices information. This service makes it easy to register, view, and manage information on instruments that is useful for maintenance work, and helps customers to improve the efficiency of plant maintenance work and the quality of data management. Through solutions such as this Device Lifecycle Management service, Yokogawa will provide its customers the support they need to ensure the optimal management of their plant assets.



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