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CIMdata News

Aras PLM Platform: Redefining Customization & Upgrades (CIMdata Commentary)

12 February 2018

Key takeaways:

- *The Aras PLM Platform is redefining customization in the PLM market; the days of worrying about the potential impact on upgradeability are disappearing.*
- *The platform's ability to deploy quickly with real-time customization of predefined best practice applications is a key market differentiator; it is engineered to be highly customized.*
- *The platform's architecture has been designed to protect investment and ensure future adaptability; it is engineered to be sustainable.*
- *Upgrades are performed by Aras specialists at no extra cost as part of the Aras subscription.*

Introduction

For several years, the Aras Corporation (Aras) has included no-cost version-to-version upgrades in their enterprise subscriptions, independent of how the solution has been customized and implemented. This is a rather bold guarantee given the historic challenges the industry has experienced with upgrading highly customized PLM deployments. In 2014, when this commentary was originally published, CIMdata felt it appropriate to find out how Aras' guarantee was playing out. We discovered that there was much more to the story than just a contractual guarantee. Fundamentally, the Aras PLM Platform is engineered to be highly configurable—even customizable—without resulting in expensive, complex and time-consuming version-to-version upgrades and re-implementations. Today, with more than 1,100 upgrades completed by Aras, we have updated this commentary to reacquaint and update the PLM community on this feature of the Aras offering.

As definers, defenders, and champions of the PLM industry CIMdata, along with most of the industry, has traditionally defined configurability (or tailorability) as the ability to adjust and/or define the behavior of a PLM solution in a manner that carries forward to the next-released version of the software solution without re-configuration. Defined this way, configurability is a good thing; many would in fact say it is a highly desirable attribute of a robust PLM solution. Whereas the industry has traditionally defined customization as a bad thing, because it frequently requires re-implementation of customizations with each subsequent upgrade; usually a costly and time-consuming effort that CIMdata and almost all PLM solution providers recommend be avoided. But with the Aras PLM Platform this appears to no longer be the case. Could this be a true innovation, a PLM solution that is highly customizable to satisfy

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specific business requirements without causing negative side effects? A solution where you could easily and extensively customize its look and feel, data model, and even operational behavior without worrying about feature loss during the upgrade process? The simple answer is Yes; a more detailed answer follows.

The Innovation Behind the Aras PLM Platform

Like most innovations, the Aras architecture started with a simple, yet elegant main design concept; one based on, as Aras calls it, a “model-based SOA enterprise application framework.”” At its core, the Aras PLM Platform is an object-oriented, web-based solution that relies on a service-oriented architecture (SOA) with a behavioral modeler that provides a graphical drag-and-drop environment that enables real-time system definitions and alterations that do not require complex programming. Modifications to the Aras PLM Platform are made in real-time by editing the model definition directly without the need to even restart the system. By contrast, application modifications in traditional architectures require developers to edit source code, compile, link, and then deploy to make the necessary application changes and enhancements, which can take weeks or even months to implement.

By supporting solution model modification in real-time, the Aras PLM Platform allows changes to be implemented on a live system. The solution’s behavioral modeler stores the XML solution models (e.g., object model, relationships, business logic, and methods) as normalized data structures in the database, separate from the underlying web services framework (see Figure 1).

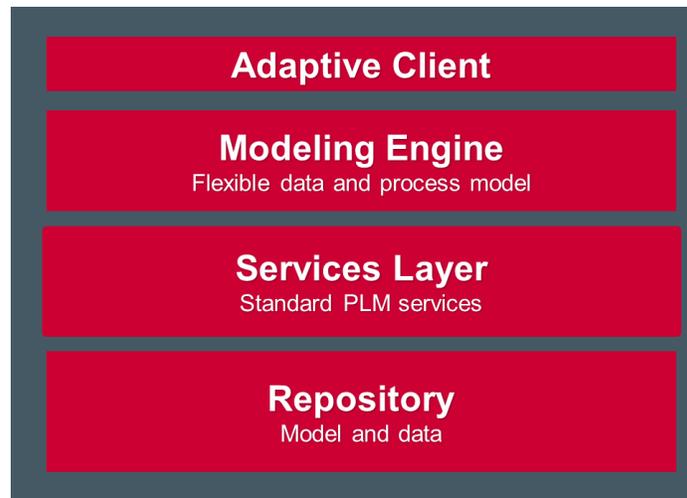


Figure 1—Aras PLM Platform Architecture
(Courtesy of Aras)

Figure 2 illustrates the range of applications and platform services available out-of-the-box with Aras. The applications can be modified and extended using the graphical model editor and simple forms. Users can develop their own applications from scratch. The application models in turn subscribe to web services found in the Services layer. When a new version or service pack is released by Aras, the Services layer can be upgraded without impacting the XML models residing at the higher level. Since there is no implementation-specific business logic in the Services layer, all business logic is made available and is customizable within the modeling environment; upgrades do not require code changes to the solution models.

It is important to note that the platform’s behavioral modeler is not a data modeler with scripts running beside it. Instead the XML model is executed directly by the solution’s SOA run-time engine. Aras has

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no middle abstraction layer of code that defines and/or interrupts business rules between the user interface layer and the database layer, which is important for a number of reasons. Not only does this result in a higher level of configurability, it also results in a leaner code stack than that found in most comprehensive PLM solutions. (Aras reports fewer than one million lines of code exist in the current release.) A benefit of the leaner stack is that it allows the database to be directly optimized since it precisely represents the business logic, thereby making scalability solely a database issue. To date, Aras reports that 3rd-party lab run performance and scalability tests of over 250,000 concurrent users with significant potential to go much higher based on the availability of the appropriate hardware configuration to support the increased database traffic.

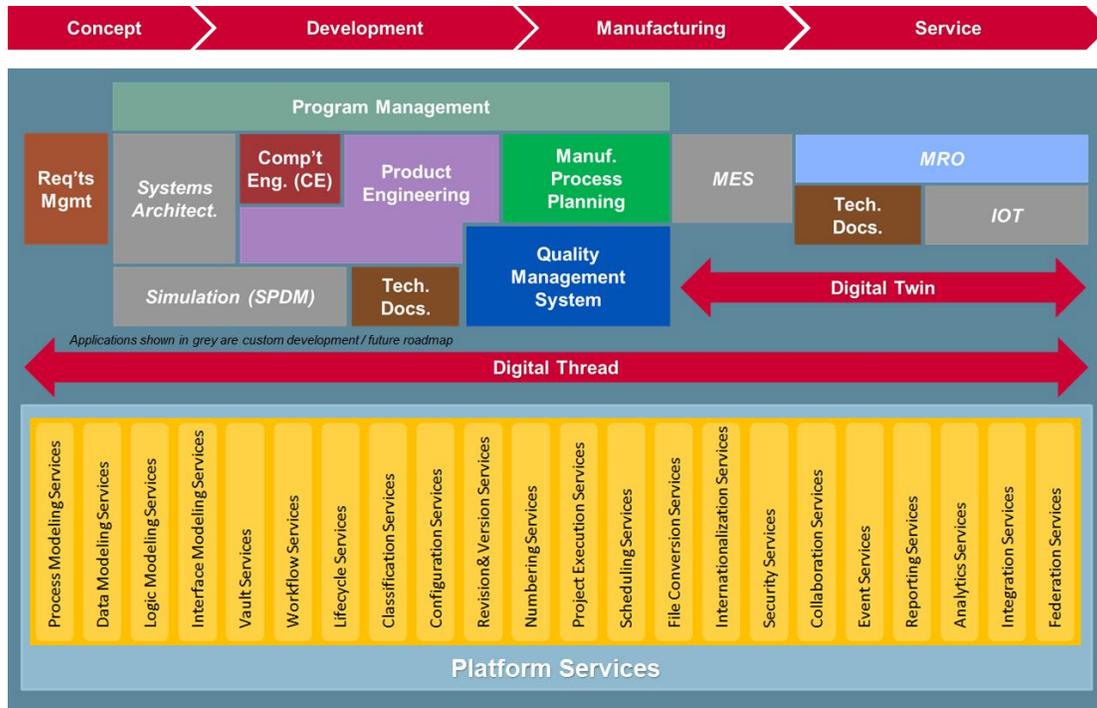


Figure 2—Aras PLM Platform Applications and Services
(Courtesy of Aras)

Another benefit of the behavioral modeler is that Aras can run a more efficient development organization with fewer people; the organization doesn't have to upgrade, move, and test as much source code between releases as many of its competitors. This means that Aras can more quickly develop, test, and deliver solution enhancements to its customers, thereby enabling them to rapidly enhance their PLM capabilities.

Aras customers, many of whom speak at Aras' multiple annual user events, report that Aras's unique architecture (among PLM solutions) has saved them time and eliminated the need to make core system changes to implement complex customizations. They also report that this approach results in a rapid and rather effortless system definition; one that adapts to changing business requirements simply, continuously, and without the headaches of typical code-based customization paradigms. Aras customers also report that the architecture enables the rapid implementation of business-specific solutions either from scratch, or when starting with the predefined applications that are available to the Aras community. They also report that forms, workflows, relationship structures, business rules, and data model schema can be rapidly customized while the system is running to support even complicated business requirements.

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Finally, it is important to note that the guaranteed upgrade of a highly customized PLM solution is not only possible, but is in fact commonplace among Aras subscribers. Many report that the upgraded database is typically returned from Aras within two weeks. Aras says the technical part of the upgrade generally takes a few hours, with the remaining time consumed with validation testing. Customers still need to validate integrations and perform their own acceptance testing.

As stated, Aras has completed over 1,100 upgrades since the inception of the program and, in a recent 12-month period, upgraded half of their customers, all without any loss of previous customization or integration done to the platform. This places Aras in a special position that merits investigation both by companies searching to overlay or replace an existing PLM solution and by those looking to implement one for the first time.

Conclusion

Aras' secret is out, and many industrial companies are taking advantage of the Aras PLM Platform's ability to support extensive customization while avoiding upgrade issues. Aras customers have found that the platform's modeling capabilities and predefined best-practice applications enable solutions to be developed quickly using an Agile methodology, and configuration and customization while the solution is running enable fast deployment. The solution's ability to be upgraded without causing time and money to be spent on re-implementing customizations is impressive, and those looking for a highly customizable PLM solution should take note. For companies that have already embraced Aras, the solution's elegance is in its simplicity and in the fact that it is possible to upgrade without a penalty for customization. The follow-on impacts are significant, and for many of Aras' customers there is a lot more value to come. The Aras PLM Platform's architecture is not just highly customizable, it is also highly sustainable. The days of missing or significantly delaying upgrades have potentially ended. The Aras PLM Platform is a robust solution with a high degree of resilience to business and technology changes, thereby protecting a company's short- as well as long-term PLM investment, ensuring future adaptability, and contributing to a reduced total cost of ownership. To answer our earlier question as to whether or not the Aras PLM Platform could be a true innovation, significantly customizable to satisfy business requirements without causing negative side effects, the answer is a resounding Yes.

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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CIMdata China 2018 PLM Market and Industry Forum successfully hosted in Shanghai

3 May 2018

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From e-works global:

CIMdata China 2018 PLM Market and Industry Forum has been successfully hosted at Marriott Hotel Shanghai Hongqiao. The topic this year is “Industry 4.0—Its Global Impacts & Status”. CIMdata PMIF is a global PLM leadership event in North America, Europe, India, China, and Japan and is exclusively for software and service providers in PLM economy. China is the fourth stop and it is the 7th year that CIMdata and e-works co-hosted the China event.

Mr. Peter Bilello, CIMdata President and Mr. Stan Przybylinski, CIMdata Vice President gave lectures and shared global PLM market trends and insights with participants. Dr. Pei Huang, e-works CEO translated through the event. Peter and Stan analyzed the current global economic climate and trends as well as examined their effects on the PLM economy. They also released CIMdata’s 2017 global PLM market analysis results—including extensive analyses and forecasts regarding market growth across PLM domains, industries and regions, and the performance (by revenue and market-share) of leading PLM solution providers. Dr. Huang shared smart manufacturing hotspots, PLM market trends, and mainstream vendors growth in China.

In the keynote speech “State of PLM: Today’s Market and Leading Trends”, Peter reviewed the PLM market growth in 2017: The overall PLM market was up 7.3% to \$43.6 billion in 2017. cPDM sector grew 2.9% to \$15 billion with software grew slower and service up. Tools sector grew 7.7% at \$27.8 billion with EDA leading the growth. Digital manufacturing sector was up 6.2% to \$761.8 million.

Peter also talked about today’s major trends and challenges in PLM industry, as well as topics of circular economy, engineering materials, model based system engineering, and digital twin. He pointed out that digital transformation is not the starting point but rather the next step. Enabling Digital Transformation requires end-to-end connectivity and lifecycle optimization (C/O); it also requires organizational, cultural, and technological changes.

Stan analyzed in detail the global PLM market presence in 2017 from different dimensions. He thinks solid growth is possible in global PLM market because fundamentals are still there and companies are keeping investing despite unsettled economies. Impacts of subscription are just about worked out in PLM market. Major PLM vendors were trying to differentiate and look to fill out their portfolios. There are 135 acquisitions in 2017 and it is an important part of the platformization trend. In segmented sector, most segments grew and cPDM grew more slowly than the rest of the market in 2017. There will be continued growth in simulation and analysis, systems engineering etc.

As a leading global strategic management consulting and research authority focused on PLM market, CIMdata issues annual PLM market analysis report for reference and guide. The country reports released this year will include Brazil, China, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Italy, United Kingdom, France, and the United States.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Huang firstly unveiled PLM market growth digits in China. According to him, Chinese mainstream PLM market in 2017 had a double-digit growth of 12.9% from \$1.14 billion in 2016 to \$1.28 billion in 2017. Overall Chinese PLM market grew 13.2% to \$2.02 billion. Chinese market share grew from 4.4% in 2016 to 4.63% in 2017. In terms of segments, 3D-CAD had a steady growth, design CAD higher than multi-discipline CAD. Simulation and analysis grew faster than overall tools. Digital manufacturing, NC, and CAPP grew very quickly because of strong demand. 2D-CAD sector had tiny growth last year.

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Peter and Stan also shared insights on some research and hot topics around PLM applications. The topics they delivered and discussed include Industry 4.0 - A Regional Update, Manufacturing in the Built World, The Industrialization of Additive Manufacturing, SLM: Leveraging IoT/IIoT to Deliver New Capabilities and Business Models, Closing the Big Data Loop in PLM, and Virtual/Augmented Reality.

The event was very successful. It provided professional PLM economy updates, PLM market trends, statistics, and forecasts for participants to better understand PLM technology and concepts. As a key enabler of Industry 4.0, PLM will also play an important role in Made in China 2025 initiative and assist in Chinese manufacturing transformation and upgrading.

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CIMdata's Vice President, Stan Przybylinski, to make a Presentation at SAP's PLM-Infodays

4 May 2018

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm, announces that its Vice President, Stan Przybylinski, will make a presentation at SAP's PLM-Infodays entitled, "Digitalization and the Future of Engineering." SAP's PLM-Infodays will take place at the SAP University, St. Leon-Rot, Germany on 8-9 May. Mr. Przybylinski's presentation will take place during the afternoon of day 1 of the event, on 8 May.

The recent corporate emphasis on digitalization has been driven by technology trends like social, mobile, analytics, cloud, and the Internet of Things. Companies have a need for speed and product innovation that many believe digitalization can deliver. In his presentation, Mr. Przybylinski will talk about the challenges of digitalization, how digital twins, powered by IoT, are enhancing processes across the product lifecycle from providing data to enhance innovation through to support for new business models.

Mr. Przybylinski has over 30 years of experience in the development of business-enabling IT solutions for research, engineering, and manufacturing organizations worldwide. He has worked in R&D, marketing, and communications with both Fortune 100 companies and small organizations. Stan is responsible for CIMdata's research agenda, including the CIMdata PLM Market Analysis Report series. Mr. Przybylinski has been directly involved with selection, consulting, integration, and implementation of large-scale PLM solutions, and has worked on projects for both PLM solution suppliers and end-user organizations in the automotive, aerospace, consumer packaged goods, high-tech, and medical devices industries. He has spoken on PLM-related topics in Europe, North America, and Asia.

For more information about the presentation please visit: <https://www.cimdata.com/en/events/cimdata-supported-events/event/389-sap-s-plm-infodays>

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

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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, www.CIMdata.com; follow us on Twitter at <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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Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA Analyst Event 2018: New Highlights in Simulating Product, Nature and Life (CIMdata Commentary)

2 May 2018

Key takeaways:

- *CIMdata believes that the SIMULIA brand of Dassault Systèmes has made tremendous progress in simulating product, nature and life. The renewed focus on industry solutions rather than brand products makes it much easier for end users to apply the simulation technology to their specific needs.*
- *Dassault Systèmes digital healthcare solutions show that SIMULIA's simulation capabilities are now available to a much broader audience and span the entire innovation cycle. CIMdata believes Dassault Systèmes is a leader in providing simulation to the digital healthcare industry.*
- *With the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin, Dassault Systèmes makes another step forward in applying simulation technology to our daily life. CIMdata believes that SIMULIA has the major multiphysics and multiscale simulation capabilities to enable the digital twin.*

CIMdata recently attended the Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA brand 2018 analyst event at its campus in Johnston, RI. As SIMULIA executives pointed out, with this dedicated event focusing on simulation, Dassault Systèmes continues to demonstrate its commitment towards simulation as a foundational element in achieving its overall vision to “imagine sustainable innovation capable of harmonizing product, nature and life.” By focusing on providing a broad range of industry solutions based on the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, Dassault Systèmes is utilizing the power of its brands more effectively. SIMULIA's journey to improve and expand its simulation capabilities has been supported through organic research and development and continues with their 2017 acquisition of Exa Corporation to further improve the coverage in bringing multiscale together with multiphysics and science, as shown in Figure 1. Their strategy to integrate these technologies in the 3DEXPERIENCE platform allows their customers to connect the dots between the different scales and domains as well as the entire product lifecycle process.

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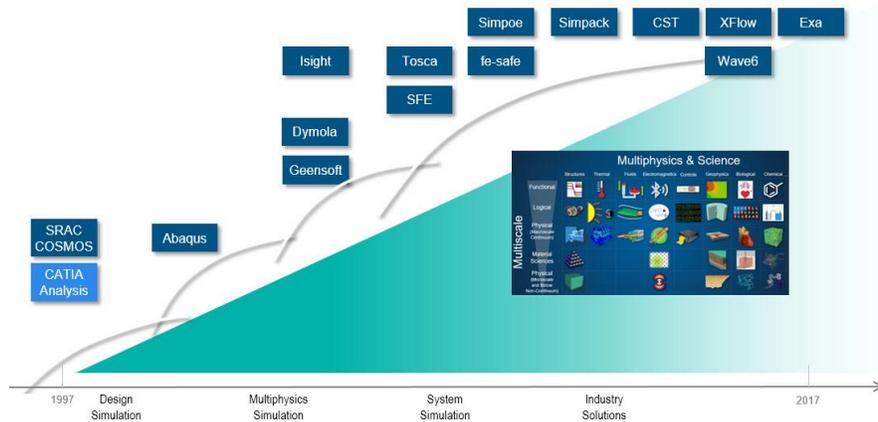


Figure 1—Dassault Systèmes Long-Term Commitment to Simulation
(Courtesy of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA)

Dassault Systèmes is building an environment with its 3DEXPERIENCE platform that allows customers to enable and use the digital twin. Realistic simulation as provided by the SIMULIA brand is a key factor to achieve this, see Figure 2.

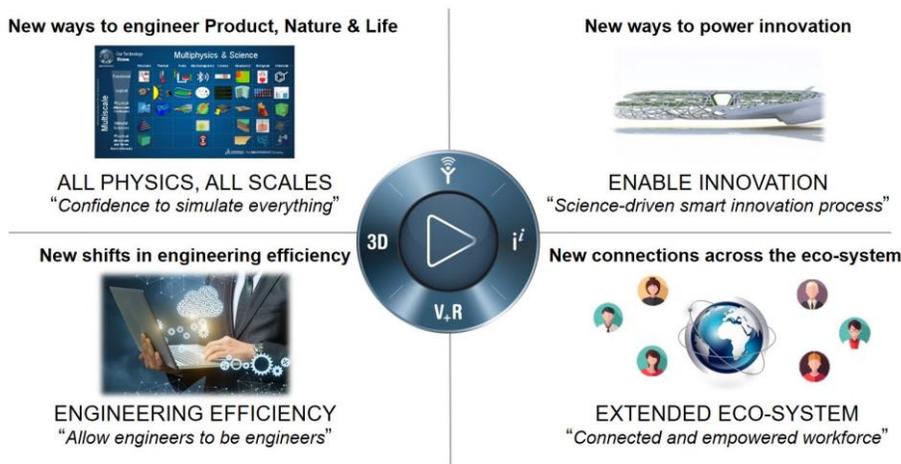


Figure 2—3DEXPERIENCE—A New Way to Simulate
(Courtesy of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA)

This year’s event was focused on some key areas within the SIMULIA brand that support Dassault Systèmes’ vision to “imagine sustainable innovation capable of harmonizing product, nature and life,” including:

- Additive Manufacturing
- Personalized Healthcare
- Democratization of Simulation
- 3DEXPERIENCE Twin
- Electric Vehicles

Due to the breadth of the different topics presented by SIMULIA, we are covering two of the five topics

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in this commentary, which include Personalized Healthcare and the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin. Additive Manufacturing is covered in a separate CIMdata commentary, and Democratization of Simulation and Electric Vehicles are covered by a commentary from SMS_ThinkTank™ in cooperation with CIMdata.

For each of the topics, the SIMULIA team demonstrated a holistic lifecycle approach enabled by the 3DEXPERIENCE platform. Focusing more on industry segments rather than brand products allows a closer and more specific interaction with, and among, the end users responsible for various disciplines in the development process. By integrating the simulation capabilities into industry specific processes utilizing the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, SIMULIA is making their solutions available to a much broader audience than ever before.

Personalized Healthcare

Healthcare is a very complex and data-driven industry. The advances in technology nowadays demands the collection of vast amounts of data, not just in general but for each individual. In addition, new manufacturing technologies allow customization of medical devices as well as personalization of medical treatment. Dassault Systèmes with the simulation capabilities provided by the SIMULIA brand has a leading role in this industry, as shown in Figure 3.

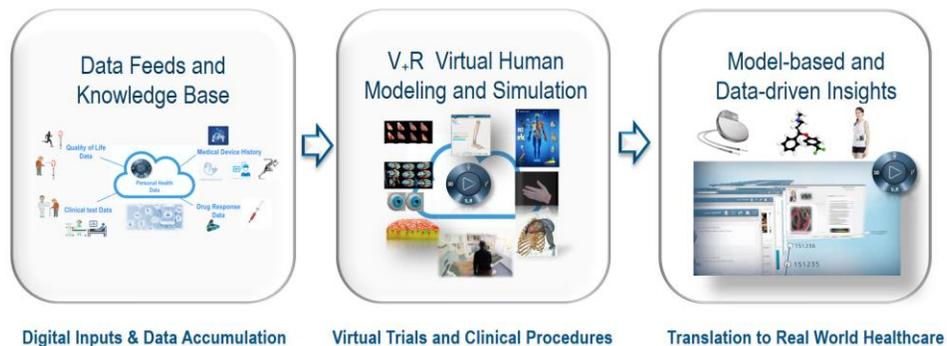


Figure 3—Solutions for Digital Healthcare
(Courtesy of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA)

Simulation applications within the healthcare industry are being applied to medical devices and have a well-established foundation within SIMULIA supporting simulation of biomechanics of implants, electromagnetic safety of medical devices and sensors, drug delivery, and many more. With the combination of Dassault Systèmes BIOVIA and SIMULIA brands, simulation applications also are widely used within biochemistry in the pharma and biotech industries as well as in very early stages for patient care.

SIMULIA’s Living Heart initiative is a good example of how its multiscale/multiphysics and science simulation capabilities can be applied to the medical field. It’s supporting all the different areas mentioned above following Dassault Systèmes vision for this industry to “advance the development of safe & effective cardiovascular products and treatments by uniting engineering, scientific, and biomedical experts to deliver validated models and translate simulation technology into improved patient care.”

For those partners participating in this project, the heart model is available on the 3DEXPERIENCE platform (on the cloud or on-premise) which not only brings the various partners together in a collaborative manner but also provides access to data and process management capabilities, simulation

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technology, thus, allowing one to be innovative at every step of the “medical lifecycle,” see Figure 4.

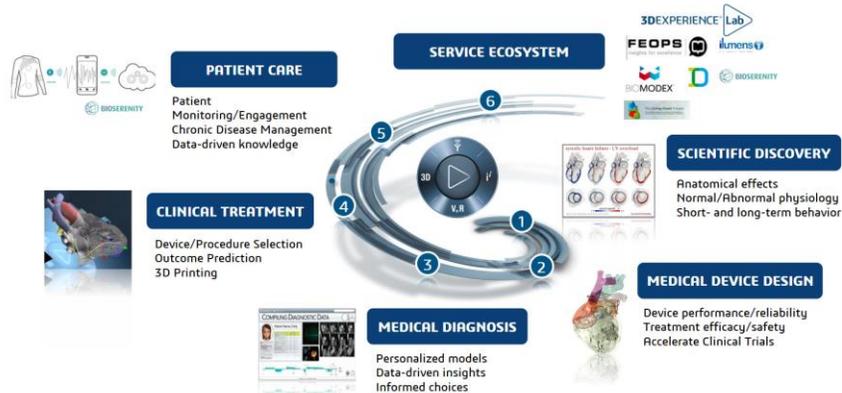


Figure 4—Digital Healthcare allows End-to-End Innovation Throughout the Medical Lifecycle
(Courtesy of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA)

This project is a very good indicator of where digital healthcare is going utilizing simulation technologies. As a major next step, Dassault Systèmes is thinking about the “Virtual Human.” For this to be achieved, major advances in the realistic representation of the physical human model have to take place, individual material behavior modeling has to see further improvements, as well as consistent connectivity between real and virtual worlds need to be established. This means essentially the enablement of the digital twin for the healthcare industry.

3DEXPERIENCE Twin

Major trends and changes in technology demand that solution providers be ready to understand and address those trends to make use of supporting technology in their solutions. These trends include, but may not be limited to:

- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Big Data (management and processing)
- Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Digital Thread

This is where the digital twin enters the picture. Dassault Systèmes calls this the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin. Their SIMULIA brand’s simulation capabilities combined with the 3DEXPERIENCE platform provide a good foundation for enabling digital twin capabilities. The 3DEXPERIENCE platform brings the virtual models and physical parts together and enables the digital thread—supporting data continuity independent of the source of the data and its consolidation.

The maintenance area with products and systems in service is an ideal example for applying the digital twin concept. Typical approaches for fixing products or systems when they are broken or to facilitate a prescribed maintenance schedule are too unpredictable and expensive. Utilizing a predictive maintenance approach based on the specifics of the operating environment, usage history of the product, or probable system failure, can be understood before it becomes critical and too expensive to fix. Such an approach is realized through the enablement of a digital twin to support a predictive maintenance approach. Some companies predict a savings of 8 to 10% in maintenance costs, see Figure 5.

To enable such an approach, in addition to the 3DEXPERIENCE platform, IoT sensors need to be in

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place as the source of information from the physical twin. Data processing utilizing analytics must be enacted and proper dashboarding has to be made available to enable making proper decisions.

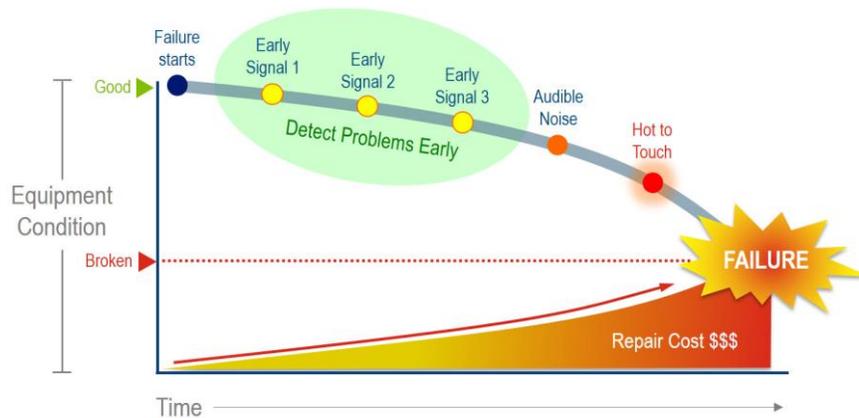


Figure 5—3DEXPERIENCE Twin for Predictive Maintenance and Service
(Courtesy of Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA)

Simulations based on the input from IoT sensors in its multiple scales, domains, and fidelities plays a significant role to feed information into the analytics engine to properly predict behavior for a specific use case in the field. At the same time, simulation can help predict the proper locations of those IoT sensors. With its comprehensive simulation capabilities in multiscale and multiphysics, Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA brand has the foundational elements to execute such predictive simulation and support the enablement of the digital twin—the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin.

Conclusions

CIMdata believes that Dassault Systèmes has made tremendous progress in both Personalized Healthcare and the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin. The renewed focus on industry solutions rather than brand products makes it much easier for end users to apply the simulation technologies to their specific needs. The examples of these two topics are proof that simulation has become mainstream in all aspects of our life and is not just used behind closed doors by a specialized engineering department or after-the-fact of a product failure in the field.

Dassault Systèmes digital healthcare solutions show their SIMULIA and BIOVIA brands' simulation capabilities are now available to a much broader audience and span the entire innovation cycle. CIMdata believes Dassault Systèmes is a leader in simulation for the digital healthcare industry. We are looking forward to their next achievements.

With the 3DEXPERIENCE Twin, Dassault Systèmes makes another step forward in applying SIMULIA's simulation technology to our daily life. The 3DEXPERIENCE platform as a centerpiece plays a vital role in enabling the digital twin approach. CIMdata believes that Dassault Systèmes SIMULIA brand has the major multiphysics simulation capabilities to enable the digital twin.

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-

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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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Key Sponsors of PLM Road Map™ North America 2018 and PDT North America 2018 Announced

30 April 2018

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm and Eurostep, organizer of PDT, have today announced the key sponsors for the upcoming PLM Road Map North America and PDT North America conferences. The participating sponsors are Aras Corporation, Configit, IpX, Mercury Digital Services, and Siemens PLM Software. The events will take place on 15-17 May at the Tysons Corner Marriott in Virginia.

“We are honored to have these leaders in PLM solutions and services choose to sponsor PLM Road Map North America 2018 and PDT North America 2018,” stated Andrew Rodger, Senior Business Development Manager at CIMdata. “The mission we have for this event is to create a platform where open collaboration and knowledge transfer can occur between all participants in the PLM ecosystem.”

As part of the PLM Road Map/PDT experience sponsors are featured in an online PLM Collaboration Café™ which provides each sponsor the opportunity to showcase a selection of their PLM solutions. For more information on the PLM Collaboration Café visit <https://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-conferences/2018-plmrmna-pdt/2018-plmrmna-pdt-sponsors>

For more information on PLM Road Map North America and PDT North America visit: <https://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-conferences/2018-plmrmna-pdt>

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, www.CIMdata.com; follow us on Twitter at <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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Acquisitions

4sight Holdings acquires AccTech Systems

26 April 2018

4Sight Holdings, a diversified holding company that invests in industry 4.0 technology businesses, today announced it has acquired professional services firm AccTech Systems and its subsidiary Dynamics Africa Services, for R120 million and R30 million respectively.

The acquisition follows the listing of 4Sight Holdings on the JSE's AltX board, where the company raised capital to fund its expansion plans through strategic acquisitions.

According to [Antonie van Rensburg](#), Chief Executive at 4Sight Holdings, the buy-out of AccTech and Dynamics Africa Services, an independent software vendor (ISV) that focuses on [Microsoft Dynamics NAV](#) (formerly Navision) and GP (formerly Great Plains) Enterprise solutions, is an integral step in realising 4Sight's strategic vision.

"Our objective is to provide industry 4.0-related solution services and implement relevant end-to-end technology stacks across key industry verticals, to help companies visualise, digitise, analyse and optimise their data, systems and operations," he explains.

"Since its inception in 1994, AccTech has become a leading provider of enterprise applications such as [enterprise resource planning](#) (ERP), [customer relationship management](#) (CRM), human resources (HR), [business process management](#)(BPM) and [business intelligence](#) (BI). The development of our own Intellectual Property since 1998 resulted in over 33% of our user base adopting these technologies, especially in BPM, to enhance their operational efficiencies, a key pillar of digital transformation," explains [Tertius Zitzke](#), CEO of AccTech.

Before the advent of cloud computing, these enterprise applications were provisioned on-premises and in silos. However, the digitisation of platforms, communications, systems, services and processes now necessitates the seamless integration of technology stacks.

"Due to the inherent complexity of stitching together enterprise applications, cloud computing has become the underlying enabler of this integration, effectively making cloud migration a strategic imperative for companies that want to operate successfully in the fourth industrial revolution ([4IR](#))," elaborates Van Rensburg.

"Digital transformation is therefore reliant on a series of iterative advances in a company's technological capabilities, with cloud computing serving as the foundation. With this in place, we're then able to build out and integrate IOT, cyber security, operational and communication systems, big data and data science capabilities, mixed reality, and automation."

And as one of the largest value-added resellers (VAR) for the Microsoft Dynamics channel in the Middle East and Africa (MEA), with a strong footprint in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, Dynamics Africa Systems is ideally positioned to enable enterprise cloud migration on the world's most pervasive software platform.

The ISV manages all transactions, on-boarding and licensing for Microsoft on behalf of its channel

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partners in Africa, positioning it as a key digital transformation enabler for hosted Microsoft Dynamics environments. The companies have a presence in 15 countries, servicing 1 200 customers and over 43 000 users across Africa.

"The accelerated uptake of Microsoft's cloud services and the imminent expansion of the [Microsoft Azure](#) data centre network into South Africa has also driven unprecedented cloud migration on the continent, with adoption rates in Africa set to become the highest globally over the next five years," continues Zitzke.

"We therefore invested heavily last year to ready the business for the delivery of the Microsoft Azure stack. We already have a referenceable test site in the Azure cloud, which showcases our ability to deliver an end-to-end cloud integration, from a company's enterprise resources all the way down to the office suite."

This early-mover play favourably positions AccTech and Dynamics Africa Systems to facilitate the expectant rise in demand for cloud-based solutions by African businesses, and has helped secure a sales pipeline that will establish the business as the biggest indirect cloud solution provider (CSP) for Microsoft in the MEA region by 2022.

"The company's established customer base, combined with this growth potential, made AccTech an extremely attractive acquisition target," says Van Rensburg. "While working together with the team on a number of 'mine of the future' deployments to integrate a client's [SAGE ERP](#) with our 4IR technology stack, we identified synergies across our respective technical proficiencies and capabilities, and also found that there was a good cultural fit."

Following the acquisition, AccTech will be better positioned to integrate client systems with other industry 4.0 solutions and services offered within the 4Sight Holdings group of companies, explains Van Rensburg.

Once clients migrate into the cloud, AccTech can also bundle additional products such as fully geo-redundant data storage, archiving and backups, and integrate business intelligence tools, which can boost operational efficiency and meet the growing regulatory compliance requirements of businesses operating in the digital age.

"Any service provisioned from the cloud is also scalable, which can help clients to rapidly expand into the many burgeoning growth markets in Africa, while leveraging a cost-effective opex model that mitigates the need for massive capital expenditure," adds Zitzke.

Medium-term growth is envisaged in the development and delivery of customised solutions that leverage AccTech's unique skill sets and Microsoft's compatibility with open source software. "When combined with Dynamics Africa Systems' cloud deployment capabilities, numerous opportunities arise to assist companies across a diverse range of industries," continues Van Rensburg.

"By seamlessly converging operational and information systems with data from smart devices, IOT sensors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, companies can digitise processes to deliver augmented decision support and enable fingertip control of virtual assets, people and projects in various industry verticals. Currently, major applications are being seen in mining and manufacturing processes, but e-learning, mobility and property are other key growth areas we've identified. We also envisage the creation of industry 4.0 box-drop solutions for small-to-medium sized enterprises in the longer term as our combined teams develop and deploy modular technology stacks in the cloud," he concludes.

AccTech and Dynamics Africa now become subsidiaries of 4Sight Holdings, effective from 1 April

2018.

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Accenture Expands Oracle Capabilities in the UK with Acquisition of Certus Solutions

30 April 2018

Accenture has entered into an agreement to acquire Certus Solutions, one of the UK's top Oracle Cloud implementation service providers. Certus Solutions will become part of Accenture's Oracle practice, further strengthening its capabilities in delivering digital transformation on Oracle Cloud. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions. The terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Accenture and Certus Solutions have a track record of working together, including on one of the largest Oracle Cloud implementations for a UK government department to-date. As the number of organisations looking to move to the cloud grows, the acquisition of Certus Solutions will enable Accenture to broaden its Oracle Cloud services and support for clients.

Certus Solutions has extensive experience in the government and health and public services industries, in addition to clients in the financial services, logistics and telecommunications sectors. Together, Accenture and Certus Solutions will combine deep cloud experience, transformational expertise and industry knowledge to better serve clients on their journey to Oracle cloud.

“Accenture is focused on delivering the latest innovations in cloud, analytics, and intelligent automation and artificial intelligence to help clients become intelligent enterprises,” said Bhaskar Ghosh, group chief executive, Accenture Technology Services. “With the addition of Certus Solutions, we're further expanding our Oracle Cloud services and capabilities that help organizations accelerate their digital transformation and achieve better business outcomes.”

Mark Sweeny, founder and CEO of Certus Solutions said: “Accenture is at the forefront of positive transformational change, but what's truly exciting is what Certus Solutions can add that will benefit our clients. There is a tremendous opportunity to do some great work and we're looking forward to taking that on together. We have gone from being one of the first Oracle Cloud Partners to become one of the most successful, and a big reason for that is the quality of our people. This is a market that needs specialists with broad experience, which is rare in this highly demanding and competitive market.”

Zahra Bahrololoumi, head of Accenture Technology for UK & Ireland, added: “This acquisition brings a team with highly respected Oracle Cloud expertise and extends the capabilities of our market leading Oracle practice. By joining together we can add scale to provide excellent solutions to our joint clients and expand Certus Solutions into more areas of the Oracle ecosystem.”

Accenture was recently awarded the 2018 Partner of the Year for Oracle ERP Cloud in the UK & Ireland by Oracle. Accenture has been one of Oracle's leading systems integration partners globally for 12 years in a row, with more than 54,000 Oracle-skilled consultants around the world who help accelerate digital transformation by implementing Oracle-based business solutions and new business processes that develop and evolve as their digital business grows. Accenture has teamed with Oracle for

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more than two decades and is a Global Cloud Elite and Platinum level member of the Oracle Partner Network. Accenture is also certified as an Oracle Cloud Excellence Implementer. For more information on the Accenture and Oracle relationship, please visit www.accenture.com/oracle.

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Acquisition of CANDI Controls Assets adds Edge Gateway Technology to Altair's IoT Platform

3 May 2018

[Altair](#) has acquired all of the intellectual property assets of California-based CANDI Controls, Inc. and hired CANDI's experienced software and technology team into Altair's IoT organization to strengthen and expand the scope of its Carriots™ solution offering. Founded in 2009 with significant start-up capital, CANDI developed a modern platform which supports multiple data protocols for edge gateway computers to communicate with a constellation of IoT devices. CANDI also developed several relationships with important players in the IoT market including Google, Microsoft, and Intel.

CANDI's software is designed to easily connect systems and equipment with cloud-based monitoring and control services to help organizations improve performance, conserve resources, and cut operational costs. Sensor data can be analyzed, visualized, and processed with machine learning and predictive analytics tools to forecast performance and prescribe actions consistent with business objectives.

“Altair's vision is for digital twin simulation and predictive/prescriptive analytics solutions to run in the cloud or on edge gateway computers to optimize performance of both industrial equipment and consumer devices,” said James Scapa, Founder, Chairman, and CEO at Altair. “We believe this acquisition is important to help our customers' digital transformation and enable their products to thrive in today's rapidly emerging connected ecosystems of smart devices.”

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ANSYS Acquires OPTIS, Becomes Industry's Leading Solution Provider for Autonomous Vehicle Simulation

2 May 2018

With today's completed acquisition of optical simulation leader [OPTIS](#), [ANSYS](#) now delivers the industry's most comprehensive solution for simulating autonomous vehicles. By adding OPTIS' optical sensor and closed-loop, real-time simulation to ANSYS's leading multiphysics portfolio, ANSYS offers the broadest toolset for validating the safety and reliability of autonomous vehicles — speeding time to market for these vehicles by mitigating the need for billions of miles of road testing.

The leading provider of software for scientific simulation of light, human vision and physics-based visualization, OPTIS delivers physics-based optical simulation solutions. With OPTIS, ANSYS capabilities now span the simulation of all sensors, including lidar, cameras and radar; the multiphysics simulation of physical and electronic components; the analysis of systems functional safety; as well as the automated development of safety-certified embedded software. This functionality can be integrated into a closed-loop simulation environment that interacts with weather and traffic simulators, enabling

thousands of driving scenarios to be executed virtually.

The financial impact of autonomous vehicles is enormous, with analysts predicting this emerging technology will boost the global economy by \$7 trillion. But the impact on human life is even more significant: autonomous vehicles have the potential to drastically reduce traffic accidents, saving more than 600,000 lives annually. Before they drive the highways in large numbers though, autonomous vehicles must first be proven safe through rigorous testing in complex driving environments, including boundless road conditions and weather scenarios. This would require billions of miles of physical road tests. The acquisition of OPTIS enables ANSYS to provide a faster, safer and more economical solution than physical testing of autonomous vehicles.

"More than 90 percent of automotive accidents are caused by human error, and autonomous vehicles have the potential to virtually eliminate accidents," said Eric Bantegnie, vice president and general manager, ANSYS. "By providing the most accurate and comprehensive multidisciplinary and cross-functional simulation technology on the market, ANSYS – along with OPTIS technology – will help bring safe, reliable autonomous vehicles to market sooner, reducing automotive accidents and deaths."

"As the industry races to develop safe autonomous vehicles, a comprehensive sensor solution is critical to autonomous vehicle development," said Jacques Delacour, OPTIS president and CEO. "Joining ANSYS enables us to provide the best radar, lidar and camera simulation in the market within one toolset. Together we will significantly speed the development of autonomous vehicles."

OPTIS has developed a photo-realistic virtual reality and closed-loop simulation platform, which will help speed the development of autonomous vehicles. Using this VR backbone – combined with other ANSYS solutions – automotive manufacturers can simulate the environment driverless vehicles are navigating, including road conditions, weather and one-way streets. ANSYS' pervasive simulation solutions will be used to drive virtual autonomous vehicles in realistic simulated environments. Using accurate models to replicate real-life vehicle encounters, autonomous vehicles can be driven for millions of miles in a virtual environment in a single day.

Beyond the autonomous vehicle sector, the acquisition reinforces ANSYS as a world-class simulation provider across various industries and verticals. Incorporating vision-integrated tools with ANSYS' existing solutions have enormous potential to transform customer offerings.

"ANSYS' leading multiphysics analysis coupled with OPTIS' optical capabilities will drive eLumigen's next-generation solutions with a multiphysics approach to optical simulation solutions," said Mahendra Dassanayake, chief technology officer, eLumigen. "eLumigen is an existing customer of both ANSYS and OPTIS, the acquisition will further spur innovation and enable us to jumpstart the competition."

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Company News

CaseBank Technologies and CAD-IT Partner to Bring Manufacturers Advanced Troubleshooting and Diagnostic Solutions

26 April 2018

CaseBank Technologies today announced that it has entered into a partnership with CAD-IT Consultants

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(Asia) Pte Ltd., a global technology solutions provider offering world-class services that enable companies and their supply chains to achieve greater product innovation, quality and productivity. With this partnership, CAD-IT will leverage CaseBank's industry-leading SpotLight® technology to offer manufacturers worldwide the most advanced troubleshooting solution that captures and shares field experience and deploys best practices to quickly isolate the cause of defects and performance issues.

The core of the partnership is a value-added-reseller agreement that was forged to jointly offer advanced software solutions and professional services for diagnosing, troubleshooting and repairing equipment. CAD-IT will sell, service, support and provide training for the CaseBank suite of software, globally, in all locations and industries where it has market presence.

"By leveraging CaseBank's innovative technology, CAD-IT will empower its global base of manufacturing customers and their maintenance organizations with insightful knowledge that makes it possible to resolve equipment performance issues," said Phil D'Eon, Senior Vice President of Strategy for ATP and CaseBank Technologies. "Our vision aligns closely with CAD-IT's vision, and this partnership will provide innovations that benefit our joint users and customers."

"The SpotLight troubleshooting solution is an outstanding addition to our toolset and offerings, because it complements and integrates seamlessly with everything we do," said Terence Chan, Co-founder and CEO, CAD-IT Global Business. "Our new partnership with CaseBank combines CAD-IT's global reach and technological expertise in servicing customers in various key industries with CaseBank's proficiency and strength in diagnostic and troubleshooting systems, which we expect will provide best-in-class solutions for our customers in Asia and throughout the world."

A product of CaseBank Technologies, the SpotLight® solution guides service technicians and call center personnel to optimize the troubleshooting process with unprecedented speed and accuracy, and it delivers critical insights into emerging failure modes and trends. By combining OEM engineering knowledge with the accumulating field experience of equipment maintainers through diagnostic reasoning technology, maintenance organizations are able to quickly identify the equipment failure modes and apply the proper solution to improve first-time-fix rates.

The SpotLight® solution effectively replaces the traditional fault isolation manual. It enables maintenance organizations to be more efficient in finding and fixing maintenance problems, and it permanently retains critical and perishable knowledge that is accrued by their experts in engineering and field service.

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CENIT announces strategic partnership with DELTA Management Beratung

26 April 2018

IT and software consulting provider CENIT AG and consulting firm DELTA Management Beratung GmbH (DELTA) have agreed to act as strategic partners. By dovetailing their solutions expertise, the PLM specialists plan to open up a market lead in the Digital Twin sphere. They also intend to build real time data integration capabilities to drive company-level digital transformation in manufacturing and Industry 4.0. The partnership involves an equity participation by CENIT in DELTA.

For both partners, this means collaboration in a pioneering field: CENIT has established a market position as “partner for digital transformation”, while DELTA Management Beratung provides solutions

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associated with the Digital Twin. Both companies have expertise in the fields of product lifecycle management (PLM), digital factory and software development. By pooling their knowhow, the partners are striving to develop a portfolio with the potential to lift the topics PLM, Digital Twin and digital continuity. This is intended to benefit both new and existing clients from the manufacturing and production sectors – medium or large-scale enterprises from the automotive, mechanical engineering or aerospace industry.

The partnership gives both companies access to joint teams of experts who can realize strategic initiatives for key customers. CENIT and DELTA began initial work on joint projects even before signing this partnership, e.g. for major aerospace and automotive companies.

One important way in which DELTA contributes expertise to the collaboration is via its real-time cloud-based approach. Using a special technical model, the provider is able to enhance planning and manufacturing data with logical and contextual content. This in turn enables end-to-end digitization of manufacturing technology, production, logistics and process-related quality management. The company portfolio includes development of semantic real-time networks for mapping of business and manufacturing controls as well as digital lifecycle files that permit e.g. context-based Big Data analytics and AI applications in manufacturing control.

DELTA's portfolio complements CENIT AG's smartPLM initiative for the manufacturing industry. The prime goal of smartPLM is to create digital continuity along the entire value chain in manufacturing enterprises – and in collaborating with DELTA, CENIT is taking a step towards practical implementation of this vision.

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CollabNet VersionOne recognized for Providing Agile ALM plus DevOps solutions for Value Stream Mapping

2 May 2018

CollabNet VersionOne today announced a rise in the number of organizations using Value Stream Management to realize benefits of software development tools and better optimize the lifecycle for faster delivery, better quality and improved customer satisfaction

"In addition to our known strengths around collaborative development and agile project management, CollabNet VersionOne also enables enterprises to gather key measurements and metrics throughout the software development lifecycle and this is where we see the value of Value Stream Management as a strategy for enterprises to align software development with business priorities," said Eric Robertson, VP of Product Engineering at CollabNet VersionOne.

Robertson, who has been speaking and writing about Value Stream Management for the last several years, notes that many software organizations can benefit from this approach to improving software delivery. "As Agile continues to scale and DevOps maturity varies from organization to organization, hybrid models are in place," said Robertson. "Still, the need to gather and make use of KPIs, asses bottlenecks and ensure compliance are critical for any software development effort in today's world."

A report recently released states that Value Stream Management picks up where Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) leaves off. CollabNet VersionOne has traditionally offered ALM solutions, both TeamForge (CollabNet) and Lifecycle (VersionOne) to empower organizations to deliver better

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software faster and make the transition to modern software development methodologies easier. Now with a high-powered measurement and metrics engine, offered through DevOps solutions, CollabNet VersionOne offers a complete solution for enterprises with hybrid environments.

"As the way our industry articulates the kinds of solutions relevant for software organizations changes and morphs with time, organization's needs have remained rather consistent. The bar is getting higher, but the goal is still to deliver better software at a more rapid pace," said Flint Brenton, CEO at CollabNet VersionOne. "CollabNet VersionOne has been at the heart of both Agile ALM and Value Stream Management and is committed to helping organizations face the competition of today's software-driven world and win in the marketplace with excellent software solutions."

To learn more about CollabNet VersionOne's approach to Value Stream Management, please visit: <https://www.collab.net/products/devops-lifecycle-manager>.

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HPE Announces Collaboration with Red Hat to Optimize and Accelerate Containers in Production

3 May 2018

[Hewlett Packard Enterprise](#) (HPE) today announced a collaboration with Red Hat to enable enterprises to adopt and deploy containers in production rapidly and at scale.

While developers find it easy to deploy containerized applications in their development and test environments, enterprises often require container scalability, added security features, persistent storage, and manageability to deploy containers in production. To help accelerate container application delivery, HPE and Red Hat are collaborating to optimize Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform on HPE platforms, including HPE Synergy, the industry's first composable infrastructure.

In addition, the two companies are also collaborating to offer services to help customers adopt Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform with HPE platforms from proof of concept to production.

"Deploying large-scale container environments to the enterprise data center is not simple," said Neil MacDonald, vice president & general manager, HPE Blade System. "Through our long-standing collaboration with Red Hat, we're aiming to accelerate the adoption and deployment of the Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform with HPE solutions from proof of concept to large scale deployment. Customers of both companies can now modernize their platform leveraging each of our services, support, and validated Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform technology stacks on HPE Synergy and HPE Nimble and 3PAR storage arrays."

With the efforts of HPE and Red Hat, IT experts can deploy a single container architecture from development to operations.

"DevOps and agile application development are helping customers to deliver on the promise of digital transformation with accelerated application development and microservices architectures," said Ashesh Badani, vice president and general manager, OpenShift, Red Hat. "Together, Red Hat and HPE aim to deliver a container-based solution that enables customers to not only build new cloud-native apps and microservices, but also to modernize legacy applications."

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform has become a leader in the container space by offering an

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integrated, enterprise-grade container platform based on industry standards, including Linux containers and Kubernetes. HPE will pair key components of its hybrid IT portfolio of products and services with the following capabilities for Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform.

- *Containerization services* - Helps customers adopt and migrate to Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform with containerization services through HPE Pointnext.
- *Reference architecture* - Provides leading best practice blueprints for deploying scalable container platforms from development to operations through a validated design of Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform on HPE Synergy with HPE 3PAR and HPE Nimble Storage.
- *Composable Infrastructure for containers* - Leverages HPE Synergy as a single platform to run containers on virtual machines or on bare metal, and traditional non-containerized applications side-by-side. HPE Synergy provides a single infrastructure for IT to dynamically compose their right mix of virtual, traditional and container resources, helping to increase business agility and resource utilization.
- *Persistent storage for containers* - Enables developers to provision and manage storage volumes on demand with Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform's persistent volume framework, making it easier to provision container volumes, protect container data, and set Quality-of-Service (QoS) on HPE 3PAR and Nimble storage arrays.
- *Faster deployment and automation* - Offers a complete set of Ansible playbooks along with step-by-step deployment guides to automate deployment of the HPE Synergy with Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform including high availability, networking, load balancing, persistent storage, container data protection policies, and OS security. This API-driven, programmatic control of physical infrastructure can deploy a production-ready Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform environment to less than two hours.
- *Container data protection* - Improve backup and restoration of Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform data from public clouds using HPE Cloud Volumes and/or HPE Cloud Bank Storage.
- *Stronger security* – Leverages various security tools designed to protect the complete stack. In addition, HPE offers its Gen10 Silicon Root of Trust security at the processor firmware level, which ensures servers do not execute compromised firmware code, and HPE Workload Aware Security for Linux (WASL) to further improve security from the OS level and below.

The above HPE technology stack will be available in September 2018. A Reference Architecture for HPE Synergy with Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform featuring the Gluster File System is already available today.

HPE Pointnext also offers a comprehensive portfolio of advisory and professional services supporting application containerization and Kubernetes integration. In late 2018, HPE Pointnext plans to expand the offering with additional services to help customers adopt Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform with HPE solutions and migrate to containers.

To learn more about this announcement, visit the HPE booth #403 at Red Hat Summit in San Francisco from May 8 – 10, 2018. In addition, on May 10, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. PST, Parvesh Sethi, SVP and GM, HPE Pointnext, will deliver a technology keynote focused on how HPE and Red Hat are building automated, codable and consumable technologies.

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NEC Joins Cloud Native Computing Foundation as Gold Member

2 May 2018

The [Cloud Native Computing Foundation](#) (CNCF), which sustains and integrates open source technologies like Kubernetes® and Prometheus™, today announced that [NEC](#) has joined the Foundation as a Gold Member. NEC will leverage its membership to help its carrier partners build fully open cloud native infrastructures.

Since 2000, NEC has been a significant supporter of open source communities, participating in the development of Linux and a number of other open source projects and standards. As a Platinum member of both the Linux Foundation and Linux Foundation Networking (LFN), NEC actively nurtures collaboration and innovation across the entire open networking stack.

"As the IT investment of customers is shifting to System of Engagement area, short-term system development is required and the importance of the cloud native technology such as containers is rapidly raising," said Yoshinaga Seki, Deputy General Manager of NEC. "NEC is thrilled to join CNCF to collaborate with its bustling community. By constantly incorporating cloud native technology into our business strategy, we will continue to provide products and services that will further satisfy our customers in the cloud native era."

"We're happy to bring NEC in as a Gold Member, and look forward to their help in accelerating the adoption of cloud native technologies throughout Asia," said Dan Kohn, Executive Director of the Cloud Native Computing Foundation.

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Omnify Software, Together with Ottobock/BionX Medical, Named Finalists for 2018 Medical Design Excellence Awards

2 May 2018

[Omnify Software](#), along with their client, BionX Medical, now [Ottobock](#), has been selected as a finalist for the 2018 Medical Design Excellence Awards (MDEA) for the design and development of the [Empower prosthetic foot](#).

Now in its 20th year, the MDEA is the premier awards program for the medtech industry. The awards program celebrates the accomplishments of medical device manufacturers, their suppliers, and the many people behind the scenes—engineers, scientists, designers, and clinicians—who are responsible for the cutting-edge products that are saving lives. They are improving patient healthcare and transforming medtech—one innovation at a time. Omnify was recognized as Ottobock's PLM supplier helping the company meet time to market, compliance and efficiency goals for a major re-design of the world's only active prosthetic foot. The Empower is an innovation in the field of prosthetic feet and is equipped with an active ankle joint, making it the only prosthetic foot with powered propulsion.

"We are honored to be recognized for the MDEA alongside our customer," stated Chuck Cimalore, CTO for Omnify Software. "A growing number of medtech companies have adopted our PLM solution to help design safe, innovative, and compliant products and it is great to see our customers recognized for

their product achievements."

The 2018 winners will be announced at the MDEA Ceremony on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in conjunction with the MD&M East event, organized by UBM, taking place at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York. To learn more about the event please visit: www.MDMeast.com

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openSAP Celebrates Five Years and 2.5 Million Enrollments

26 April 2018

SAP today announced the five-year anniversary of the openSAP platform, an online learning platform that has trained more than 630,000 individuals from over 200 countries.

One of the first providers of massive open online courses (MOOCs), openSAP originally offered just three courses. Today it has grown to offer more than 140 courses, available free of charge, and has spurred over 2.5 million course enrollments. Hosted and run by the [Hasso Plattner Institute](#) (HPI), openSAP was recently recognized as one of the [top 100 brands for digital transformation](#) based on industry research from Analytica.

“Five years ago, I envisioned SAP sharing knowledge freely through interactive social media systems. With the collaboration between SAP and HPI, we have realized this and reached 630,000 people globally,” said Professor Hasso Plattner, chairman of the Supervisory Board of SAP SE. “We originally adopted MOOCs, currently counting 200,000 learners with 500,000 enrollments on the [openHPI](#) platform at Hasso Plattner Institute for academic learning. It is incredible how the SAP ecosystem has embraced this platform for enterprise learning. Through users providing their open feedback on both the platform and the solutions, and latest innovations they’re learning about, we can continue to improve and deliver to meet their needs.”

Through the [openSAP platform](#), learners have access to peers and SAP experts as well as the most up-to-date information on SAP solutions and digital technologies. The platform has bolstered knowledge, fueled innovation and facilitated collaboration across cultures. In March, openSAP reached a milestone of 630,000 unique students from over 200 countries. Moreover, the learning experience provided by openSAP achieved a 98 percent satisfaction rate.

“Our dream for openSAP was to break down the barriers of digital learning, giving everyone the tools to lift themselves up through free education,” said Bill McDermott, CEO and member of the Executive Board of SAP SE. “Five years and 2.5 million course enrollments later, I’m incredibly proud of the team’s achievements to make that dream a reality. We want to be the voice of the intelligent enterprise where people come to learn, grow and unleash their amazing potential – and with openSAP, we’re only getting started.”

Ever evolving, openSAP will take advantage of SAP Leonardo Machine Learning capabilities to tailor course content to individual needs by integrating German, French and Spanish subtitles into English video content and transcripts. Upon successful course completion, learners will be able to collect digital badges that can be displayed on social media and professional profiles to showcase proficiency in subject areas specific to SAP innovations.

To celebrate this five-year achievement of openSAP, a new slate of courses with subtitle options will be

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available in the coming months. They include:

- Climate Change, Risks, and Challenges (Short Track Version) (April 19): Produced by World Wide Fund for Nature Germany in cooperation with Deutsches Klima-Konsortium, this course explores how global warming is affecting our world and what we can do to slow it down.
- Managing Java Systems on SAP NetWeaver (May 2): Focused on the runtime environment for SAP software systems based on SAP NetWeaver Application Server for Java, this course enables learners to run applications based on this technology platform in a secure, stable and performant manner.
- SAP Business ByDesign Project-Based Services (May 8): Learners are exposed to customer-facing and internal project-based services in the SAP Business ByDesign solution, including tight process integration with other areas such as sales, invoicing, purchasing and financials.
- Introduction to SAP HANA Dynamic Tiering (May 15): Users learn to implement the SAP HANA dynamic tiering platform to scale SAP HANA software. The course includes demonstrations highlighting key aspects and hands-on exercises to reinforce learning.
- Object-Oriented Programming in Java (June 13): Colleagues from Hasso Plattner Institute lead this course to help students understand key concepts of object-oriented programming (OOP) as well as fundamental programming techniques. Their knowledge will be tested with hands-on exercises in the Java programming language.

To help connect people with information to address some of the world's needs, such as IT skills, courses given on the openSAP platform that focus on digital transformation will be available through theskillset.org. This is the official platform for the IT Industry Skills Initiative launched during the 2018 World Economic Forum.

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PART Engineering Expands Partnership, Adds Strength Assessment Software to Altair Partner Alliance

2 May 2018

Altair is pleased to add S-Life FKM, software developed by PART Engineering, to the [Altair Partner Alliance](#) (APA). S-Life FKM is a static and fatigue strength software for the assessment of FEA results according to the German FKM guideline.

“Our strength assessment software, S-Life FKM provides the user a significant increase in accuracy and reliability when evaluating FEA results,” said Dr. Wolfgang Korte, Managing Director at PART Engineering. “With a unique approach to identify critical stress hot spots, S-Life FKM is much faster and more precise than manual assessment of stresses. Users frequently provide feedback that the cost of the software pays off very quickly after carrying out a few assessments.”

Used as a postprocessor, with the push of a button, the computed stresses are processed in such a way in S-Life FKM that an assessment of the static and fatigue strength according to the FKM guideline is carried out. As a result of the assessment, the static and cyclic utilization ratios are displayed as a

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contour plot. The scope of application includes companies that develop metal components made of steel, cast iron and aluminum materials that have requirements for the components' mechanical strength.

“Adding S-Life to the partner products provides another first class fatigue solution to our clients,” said Dr. Uwe Schramm, Altair CTO for solvers, optimization, and smart multi-physics solutions and strategy. “FKM is a widely used standard in the design and engineering of machinery.”

An [introductory webinar](#) for S-Life FKM will be held on May 17 at 10 a.m. EST. For more information about the software, please visit the product page for [S-Life FKM](#).

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Patent Awarded to TCSers for their novel idea on Accurate Lane Detection

26 April 2018

Title of the Patent: LANE DETECTION

US Patent Office - #US9946941

Brief summary of the invention:

Need – Lane markings on road indicate the safe drive zone. So accurate Lane Detection is crucial for Autonomous driving/ADAS.

Solution – The granted patent proposes a novel method to extract accurate lane boundary. It possesses multiple narrow stripes of the image using an adaptive thresholding method and mapping the edges to determine accurate lane boundary.

Advantage – The proposed method helps in detection of more accurate lane boundary information.

For more info, contact tcs.iot@tcs.com.

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SAP Opens Next-Gen Chapters at North American Universities to Help Customers Speed Innovation

26 April 2018

SAP today announced the opening of 11 campus-located SAP Next-Gen Chapters, which will join SAP customers with universities across North America to spur innovation.

These campus outposts will collaborate with more than 500 educational institutions in the SAP Next-Gen program network in North America. The chapters aim to share best practices for educating graduates with SAP skills, while inspiring industries to work with students and researchers to accelerate innovation and insights into the digital future. Additional chapters across the globe are planned to open in 2018.

“Today’s digital disrupters are tapping into the mind-set of academic thought leaders and researchers, students, and startups, and linking innovation to a higher purpose,” said Ann Rosenberg, senior vice president and global head of SAP Next-Gen, SAP. “The SAP Next-Gen Chapters will enable our long-

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established SAP University Alliances member schools to accelerate the education of next-generation leaders using the latest SAP technologies. SAP customers will be able to tap this digitally educated and purpose-focused talent pool to support how they digitally transform into best-run, intelligent enterprises.”

SAP Next-Gen Chapters in North America are part of the SAP University Alliances program and its affiliated University Competence Center locations at California State University, Chico, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Other new chapters include Central Michigan University, Delaware State University, Grand Valley State University, HEC Montréal, Missouri University of Science and Technology, San Diego State University, University of Arkansas, University of Illinois at Chicago and University of Southern California.

Cross-topic chapters aim to offer the broad range of programs available through [SAP Next-Gen](#), [SAP University Alliances](#), and [SAP Young Thinkers](#). Focus-topic chapters will specialize in specific subjects or purposes, such as digital core with SAP S/4HANA; digital innovation with analytics, machine learning or blockchain technology; the [Code with Purpose program by SAP Next-Gen](#), which fosters a global movement of students to develop disruptive solutions to social problems; innovation methodologies, including science fiction thinking and purpose thinking; [#sheinnovates](#), which opens innovation and technology to young women and girls; and [SAP Next-Gen Labs](#), connecting customers, academia and partners to use SAP Leonardo capabilities for “innovation with purpose” projects that are linked to the 17 UN global goals for sustainable development.

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Siemens PLM Software appoints Senior Vice President of Marketing and Strategy

1 May 2018

Siemens PLM Software announced today the appointment of Brenda Discher in a new position for the company, senior vice president for Strategy and Marketing. Reporting directly to CEO Tony Hemmelgarn, this position will be responsible for transforming the Siemens PLM Software and Mentor marketing and strategy functions into a combined organization that will play a significant role in the growth of the company going forward.

“We’ve been quite successful in partnering with mid- to large-size companies to help them realize their innovation goals through the application of our software,” said Tony Hemmelgarn, CEO of Siemens PLM Software. “Brenda’s background and experience add an important component to our team, which can help increase our focus in helping small and mid-size companies leverage our software to transform their business as well.”

Most recently, Discher served as vice president of Global Customer Service/Support for Autodesk. In this role, she was responsible for transforming the customer service and engagement process as the company transitioned to Software as a service (SaaS). Brenda led online community and customer success functions, working to ensure customer adoption and retention.

Prior to this responsibility, Discher spent nearly 20 years in various marketing leadership positions at Autodesk. There she directed product and industry go-to-market strategy, social/demand/lead generation, channel partner cultivation, customer segmentation/profiling, as well as marketing communications, public relations and acquisition strategies. She also led product management in the

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company's Mechanical Software division and was responsible for launching several design, product lifecycle management and SaaS offerings.

Ms. Discher holds a BS in Mechanical/Industrial Engineering from Eastern Michigan University. In addition, she has an MBA in International Marketing and Finance, also from Eastern Michigan University.

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Siemens strengthens position in connected and autonomous vehicles through partnership with American Center for Mobility

3 May 2018

Siemens PLM Software and the Michigan-based American Center for Mobility (ACM) announced today a new partnership that brings Siemens' Simulation and Test solution for Automotive to ACM to support virtual and physical testing and validation of automated and connected vehicles. Siemens is already part of similar strategic initiatives in Singapore and the Netherlands, once considered to be early adopters of AV technology, applications and solutions and now leaders in the testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles and infrastructure in real-world environments. Siemens PLM Software is proud to partner with other leading companies in supporting ACM including AT&T, Visteon Corporation, Toyota, Ford and Hyundai America Technical Center Inc., Microsoft, Subaru of America, Inc., and Adient. As ACM's preferred simulation provider, Siemens PLM Software secures a seat on ACM's Industry Advisory Board which will help advance its already strong position in autonomous vehicles and automotive overall.

Included in the Siemens Simulation and Test solution for Automotive is Simcenter™ PreScan™ software for virtual simulation, developed by recently acquired TASS International and now part of the [Simcenter™](#) portfolio. The partnership was formalized on April 25th in the presence of Michigan Governor Snyder, who at the same day signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch government on supporting innovation and deployment of connected and automated vehicle technologies.

“The technology enabling connected and autonomous vehicles and the new era of mobility is changing rapidly. It is essential we collaborate on policy, regulations, and standards to make transportation safe and more accessible for all,” Snyder said. “This partnership between Siemens PLM Software and ACM shows the global nature of the work that needs to be done.”

“We are thrilled to partner with Siemens to provide these important virtual technologies which play a critical role in developing an integrated toolchain for testing and validation,” said John Maddox, ACM President and CEO. “This is extremely important to help us enable the development of validation methodologies and regulations for the safe deployment of these technologies on public roads.”

The Simcenter PreScan simulation environment produces highly realistic, physics-based simulation of raw sensor data for potential driving scenarios and traffic situations. With its already strong portfolio enhanced by the addition of products and services from recent acquisitions such as TASS International and Mentor Graphics, Siemens PLM Software is able to provide an end-to-end tool suite and services, supporting the entire testing and validation methodology that combines virtual, mixed and physical reality.

“Our unique and complete representation of the digital twin integrates electronics, software and

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hardware based systems. Because we cover all three of these disciplines in our digital twin, we can use these twins to run accurate simulations of the complex vehicle behavior found in autonomous vehicle systems,” said Tony Hemmelgarn, CEO of Siemens PLM Software. “Multi-physics simulation is critical for autonomous vehicles, where the digital twin can drive billions of virtual miles and our solutions can predict exactly what’s going to happen in the real world.”

One of 10 federally-designated proving grounds for developing and testing self-driving vehicles, the American Center for Mobility provides a myriad of real-world environments with the ability to test under a range of driving environments and infrastructure that includes a 2.5-mile highway loop, a 700-foot curved tunnel, two double overpasses, intersections and roundabouts. TASS International, a Siemens business, was an integral part of the original development of the center, using its modeling and realization expertise to conduct high-level layout and feasibility studies that led to the center in its current form today. TASS International operates several laboratories in the Netherlands, including a unique facility for testing and validation of intelligent transportation systems and cooperative driving technologies.

“A one-of-a-kind facility like ACM where we can reliably, and safely push the boundaries of today’s technologies provides a unique advantage to our business and our automotive customers,” stated Jan van den Oetelaar, CEO of TASS International. “Siemens is currently at the nexus of the fast-changing virtual and physical worlds of transportation – and thanks to the ACM, we will now be able to jointly advance the development of our products and services to support industry, insurance and authorities in the validation of automated and connected systems.”

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TCS Expands Operations in Texas, Welcoming 200+ New Employees to Plano

26 April 2018

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) today welcomed more than 200 new employees to its ranks in Plano, Texas, as part of its groundbreaking agreement with Transamerica to transform the administration of its U.S. insurance and annuity business lines.

TCS will occupy several floors of the Transamerica building at 2700 W Plano Parkway, as part of a multi-year agreement to rapidly enhance its digital capabilities, simplify the service of more than 10 million policies into an integrated modern platform, and drive growth opportunities through superior customer service. More than 200 former Transamerica employees now work for TCS at this Plano facility, as part of TCS recruiting and protecting more than 2,200 Transamerica jobs across the U.S. in multiple locations.

Texas is a key U.S. business hub for TCS, with more than 3,500 employees currently working across the state. In addition, the new Plano office will mark the company’s third location in Texas, with existing TCS offices in Dallas and Houston.

“Tata Consultancy Services’ expansion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area represents a historic new collaboration with Transamerica and shows their commitment to strengthening their economic relationship with Texas,” said Texas Governor, Greg Abbott. “This expansion presents enormous opportunity for the community and will create jobs for hardworking Texans. I thank TCS for their investment and welcome them to Plano as they continue their great success.”

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Looking beyond the business impact, TCS also plans to add Plano to its flagship [goIT](#) education programs that currently run in San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, and Austin, aimed at inspiring young people from underserved parts of the community into diverse technology careers. Last October, TCS also announced a partnership with the [Dallas Independent School District](#) for its Ignite My Future in School program, which provides free professional development and resources for educators to integrate computational thinking – a foundational skill for 21st century careers – into core subjects. So far, more than 100 Dallas-based educators have been trained and 2,300+ students [engaged](#). Nationally, Ignite My Future in School aims to reach 20,000 educators and one million students over a five-year period.

“TCS has consistently been a leading industry employer in the U.S., focused on attracting the best talent. We are proud to welcome more than 200 Texans to our workforce and look forward to partnering with the state, city and local organizations to improve economic and social outcomes for the community,” said Suresh Muthuswami, President and Global Head, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance Platforms, TCS. “We have been helping American businesses grow and transform for more than 40 years and our relationship with Transamerica will enhance their customer experience in a digitally enabled way.”

TCS has [invested nearly \\$3 billion in the U.S.](#) over the past three years and has been among the top two IT services job creators in the U.S. It is also one of America’s 50 most community-minded organizations, engaging nearly two million Americans through its extensive nationwide STEM education programs, academic partnerships and endowments to schools such as Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell Tech and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Venzee Technologies Enters into a Channel Partnership with Mobius Knowledge Services, a Leading Data Technology and Solutions Provider

25 April 2018

Venzee Technologies Inc. (“Venzee” or the “Company”), is pleased to announce that it has entered into a letter of intent (the “LOI”) with Mobius Knowledge Services Inc. (“Mobius”) to bring together Venzee’s data distribution capabilities with Mobius’ extensive data enhancement and enrichment services.

Mobius is a trusted data solutions provider to more than 50 Forbes 2000 companies, with reference clients including GAP, Inc., Amazon, and GM. Mobius delivers over 62 million records every month, across more than 30 data sets, combining 14 years of experience with over 1,000 data experts. Mobius’ technology-driven solutions, managed services, and unique managed crowdsourcing ecosystem are structured around delivering rich, accurate, and SEO-friendly (search engine optimization) product content by leveraging web data.

Peter Mackay, CEO of Venzee, commented, “Our growing relationship with Mobius highlights our Channel Partner strategy, one that allows us to connect with best-of-breed solution providers in the product content industry. Partnering with Mobius validates Venzee’s capabilities in data distribution and will allow vendors and retailers to remove costly manual labour from the product information development and exchange process.”

Karthik Karunakaran, CEO and co-founder at Mobius, commented, “By integrating Venzee’s content

distribution capabilities with Mobius, we can provide omnichannel product content at a speed and accuracy that has been missing from a number of industry verticals where we have a strong presence. By leveraging Venzee's technology across our customer relationships, we can meet the growing demand for real-time content distribution."

John Abrams, Vice President of Business Development at Venzee, added, "Mobius is a trusted data resource for clients across a number of industry verticals. We are excited to combine Mobius' domain expertise with Venzee's distribution tools. Our partnership creates a one-stop shop for efficient product content solutions to satisfy retail and consumer demand for extensive omnichannel product content."

Venzee and Mobius have entered into the LOI in respect of their partnership, the terms of which will be set out in a definitive agreement.

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Financial News

ANSYS Announces Q1 2018 Financial Results: a Strong Start Reflecting Record First Quarter Revenue, EPS and Operating Cash Flows

2 May 2018

ANSYS, Inc. today reported first quarter 2018 GAAP and non-GAAP revenue growth of 12%, or 7% in constant currency. Recurring revenue, which comprises lease license and annual maintenance revenue, totaled 78% of revenue for the first quarter on both a GAAP and non-GAAP basis. For the first quarter, the Company reported growth in diluted earnings per share of 37% on both a GAAP and non-GAAP basis.

Ajei Gopal, ANSYS President and CEO, commented, "The ANSYS Pervasive Simulation strategy and the strength of our portfolio continue to drive strong demand for our products and solutions. Our focus on execution is also paying off, and we are off to a strong start in 2018, delivering record revenue and earnings per share, both of which were above the high end of our guidance. During Q1, we had 30 customers each with combined orders over \$1 million, including the signing of the largest deal in the Company's history, a \$50 million three-year contract. We continued to see improvement within our European operations, which grew 9% in constant currency, including double-digit revenue growth in Germany, France and the United Kingdom. We also announced the acquisition of OPTIS, a leader in optical simulation. The transaction will add another physics to our multi-physics portfolio, and enhance our product offerings for autonomous vehicles."

Maria Shields, ANSYS CFO, stated, "The investments we are making in the business are yielding measurable results, with our deferred revenue and backlog reaching a record level of \$841.7 million, a 29% increase over Q1 2017. Our annual contract value (ACV) grew 10% in constant currency in Q1 2018 as compared to Q1 2017 and we reported record cash flows from operations of \$132.4 million for the quarter. Both of these metrics are indicative of the current and longer-term health of the business. We also continued to return capital to stockholders in the form of share repurchases during Q1, purchasing 0.8 million shares."

Financial Results

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ANSYS' first quarter 2018 and 2017 financial results are presented below. The 2018 and 2017 non-GAAP results exclude the income statement effects of acquisition adjustments to deferred revenue, stock-based compensation, amortization of acquired intangible assets, acquisition-related transaction costs, restructuring charges and the measurement-period adjustment related to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

To view the full release with associated tables and graphics, please visit <http://investors.ansys.com/press-releases/2018/02-May-18-213817393>

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Autodesk Extends Invitation to Join Financial Results Conference Call

1 May 2018

[Autodesk](#), Inc. today announced that it will broadcast its first quarter fiscal 2019 financial results conference call live via its website Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Autodesk will host a live webcast call at www.autodesk.com/investors. An audio replay webcast and podcast will also be available after 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on our website at www.autodesk.com/investors. For more information, please call Autodesk Investor Relations at 415-507-6373.

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EnterWorks Continues Triple-Digit Software Growth Rate in Q1 2018 for Master Data & Product Information Management Solutions

26 April 2018

EnterWorks announced today that first quarter growth in software revenues and new customers acquisitions continues to increase. EnterWorks' triple-digit growth in Q1 2018 mirrors and continues triple-digit growth from 2017. The company is seeing success specifically in the following areas: uptake of its B2B2C solution approach; MDM and PIM wins; and both market presence and thought leadership growth.

Highlights for Q1 2018:

- Diverse software and services growth in food, consumer product goods, building materials and industrial equipment, home and office, and medical/health
- Standing room only for 300 people at the National Retail Federation's Big Show in New York City for Storeytelling panel featuring EnterWorks CEO Rick Chavie
- Launch of Precision Eating™ at the Food Marketing Institute's Mid-Winter Event as consumer dietary preferences match with B2B2C (farm to fork) food content: formulations, nutrients, "free from," recipes, etc.
- Hosted Annual Advisory Board Meeting of the Retail Analytics Council, led by Professor Martin Block of Northwestern University's Integrated Marketing Communications Center
- Strong presence at Gartner's Annual Data & Analytics Summit, with presentation by customer

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Mary Kay on how EnterWorks' Enable MDM enables global ecommerce and beauty consultants

- Meeting of EnterWorks Customer Advisory Board as the EnterWorks team engaged in feedback from its customers and shared investment and road map plans
- Accelerated scale of implementations with an expanding network of trained System Integrator (SI) partners, complementary ecommerce software vendors, and data pool providers

“I am so proud of our EnterWorks team for continuing to double down on growth,” said Rick Chavie, CEO of EnterWorks. “We are reinforcing our growth track with increased R&D investments, from incorporating new technologies to advancing functionality in the core product. Going forward, we will continue our commitment to advancing MDM and PIM contribution to a company’s top line profitability through B2B2C collaboration on content while unveiling new, agile and efficient cloud capabilities.”

The EnterWorks multi-domain (product domain plus others, such as customer, brand, location and digital asset) approach enables a single view of content for businesses, trading partners, and customers across channels. EnterWorks’ unique B2B2C collaboration platform extends Master Data and Product Information Management with workflow, supplier and sales portal for omnichannel commerce.

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Tasktop Doubles Year-on-Year Subscription Revenue in First Half Fiscal Year 2018

1 May 2018

[Tasktop](#) today announced that during the record-setting first half of fiscal year (FY) 2018 – covering the reporting period Oct. 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 – the company doubled its year-on-year subscription revenue vs. the same period of the prior fiscal year. New customer brands from its direct business increased by 60 percent compared to last year’s FY, while revenue from partners remained strong as well.

Tasktop’s strong revenue growth has been driven by a market that increasingly understands the value of Value Stream Integration.

According to Neelan Choksi, Tasktop president and COO, “We’ve had an incredibly strong start to our year, which reflects the growing demand for value stream management solutions. More and more organizations are realizing that Agile and DevOps aren’t enough to provide the visibility CIOs need to align the software they’re delivering with critical business needs. For organizations seeking to transform their development environments into real digital business drivers, Tasktop is clearly the way to go.”

Q1 2018 highlights included the following:

Employee Growth

Tasktop increased its global staffing, with significant growth in both its Vancouver headquarters and Austin (U.S. headquarters) offices. Overall, headcount grew by more than 30 percent during the past twelve months (from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), while go-to-market team staffing increased by 50 percent during this period.

Leadership

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Dominica DeGrandis joined the company as director of Digital Transformation. In this role, she helps grow market awareness of Tasktop within the DevOps community and assists organizations to better understand, visualize and optimize their value streams. DeGrandis is a regular speaker at global DevOps and Lean events and her latest book: *Making Work Visible: Exposing Time Theft to Optimize Work & Flow*, was published in November 2017.

Integrations

In the first half of FY 2018, Tasktop augmented its Tasktop Integration Hub with an integration with Intland's codeBeamer ALM, an application lifecycle management tool that enables teams to manage their requirements, software development, testing and quality assurance, risk management, variants management and more. Driven by a number of Tasktop's automotive, medical and defense customers, this codeBeamer integration with Tasktop guarantees real-time stakeholder collaboration across the lifecycle to enhance productivity and reduce costs and time to market.

Awards/Charity

During this period, Tasktop was once again named to the 2018 Ready to Rocket list. The company also launched the Tasktop Community program to give back to the communities in which its employees live and work.

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Implementation Investments

Accenture to Support Saipem in Driving Digital Transformation

2 May 2018

Accenture has been selected by Saipem, a global leader in drilling, engineering and construction services, to help deliver its global digital transformation program. Accenture will lead the provision of IT Infrastructure, networking and telecommunications services and manage the evolution of Saipem's key business applications.

Under the terms of the five-year agreement, Accenture will support Saipem's move to a new IT model, progressing its journey to the cloud, by leveraging cloud computing and network virtualization, and enabling adoption of the latest digital technologies to sustain and improve business performance. These technologies include big data and analytics, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, automation and cybersecurity protection.

Accenture will manage the migration of the majority of Saipem's servers to a Microsoft Azure public cloud platform and will build a private cloud for the remaining servers, delivering a global Infrastructure-as-a-Service capability. Accenture will also implement a software-defined wide-area network, and manage and optimize Saipem's IT infrastructure, network and core digital business application services in a flexible and scalable environment.

Accenture, in collaboration with an international telecommunications company, will jointly provide Saipem with new global telecommunications services and technologies including private, broadband and satellite access, bringing efficiency and reliability to remote engineering and construction sites.

"As part of the Saipem Digital Transformation program, we are delighted to collaborate with Accenture

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in implementing the reshaping of IT sourcing, and confident that we can better serve our clients,” said Antonio Careddu, Director for Innovation, Systems and Corporate Marketing, Saipem.

Added Fausto Torri, a managing director in Accenture Resources and client account lead for Saipem, “We look forward to providing Saipem with greater flexibility to support its global operations, unlock the capability to innovate, optimize and evolve its application portfolio, and leverage the potential of big data analytics. This project will build on our successful collaboration with Saipem over the last 20 years.”

Accenture was selected by Saipem for its global delivery capabilities, proven industry experience, digital transformation expertise, and its innovation-led approach, which is backed by Accenture’s global portfolio of over 6,000 patents and applications.

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Color Image Apparel Migrates to NGC Software’s Andromeda PLM

24 April 2018

[NGC® Software](#) today announced that Color Image Apparel, Inc. is migrating to NGC’s Andromeda™ PLM.

Color Image Apparel, Inc., founded in 1992 and based in Los Angeles, designs and manufactures apparel for men and women, including brands Bella+Canvas and Alo Yoga. These brands are sold through distributors in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Bella+Canvas brings retail tees to the wholesale market, focusing on quality from yarn forward. Alo Yoga designs contemporary and comfortable yoga clothing to inspire yogis and the mindful movement.

In order to keep up with the company’s growth, Color Image needed a solution that would scale as the company expands. [NGC’s cloud-based Andromeda PLM solution](#) was designed specifically for the needs of fashion brands and retailers like Color Image. The configurable and user-friendly PLM solution provides a common platform for all PLM-related elements including Planning, Merchandising, Design, Costing, Sampling, Quality and Sourcing. Workflow calendars allow users to track progress, predict unexpected delays and keep all departments on the same page in real-time. With critical path management processes and the ability to create role-specific dashboards, users have the information at their fingertips to ensure products are on time, on trend and on budget.

“Color Image is a longstanding client of NGC Software, and we’re pleased they have selected our Andromeda PLM to power the company’s growth,” said Mark Burstein, president, NGC Software. “With Andromeda, Color Image will be able to realize all the benefits of our cloud-based solution, including faster speed to market and increased efficiency within their product development teams.”

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Reliable of Milwaukee Selects CGS BlueCherry® Suite to Improve Supply Chain Efficiency

25 April 2018

CGS today announced that Reliable of Milwaukee, a family-owned apparel and consumer goods

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business, selected BlueCherry® Enterprise Suite of solutions, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and B2B eCommerce. The BlueCherry suite provides end-to-end capabilities for apparel, footwear and consumer lifestyle brands.

Reliable of Milwaukee outgrew its ERP system and was seeking an end-to-end, industry-specific solution. As the apparel industry continues to evolve, Reliable recognized the need for agility and flexibility in order to meet the needs of its customers and to changing consumer demands. With a commitment to excellence in customer service, the Reliable team focused on ways to improve consumer value using analytical tools, and building efficiencies through the use of operational best practices. The company also sought PLM and B2B eCommerce to enhance speed to market and transparency into its supply chain. With extensive expertise and resources in the apparel and footwear market, the CGS BlueCherry suite of solutions will support Reliable of Milwaukee's growth and improve overall access to real-time supply chain information.

“After an exhaustive search, we chose CGS's BlueCherry to help us automate the fulfillment process and streamline our supply chain activities. Before, we used workarounds with multiple virtual warehouses and spreadsheets just to manage our wholesale and eCommerce orders,” said Lisa Riley, Director – Management Information Systems, Reliable of Milwaukee. “BlueCherry is well-known in the industry and its end-to-end solution will provide us with visibility and actionable intelligence throughout the supply chain. BlueCherry's suite of solutions are specifically designed for the apparel and footwear market, which made it an easy choice to support our current needs and future growth.”

“With over 30 years of experience in the consumer lifestyle products market, CGS understands the value of having the right solutions in place to efficiently and effectively run business operations,” said Paul Magel, president, Business Applications and Technology Outsourcing division, CGS. “We are thrilled to welcome Reliable of Milwaukee to our thriving BlueCherry community of apparel and footwear customers and look forward to building a long-lasting relationship with the team.”

CGS's [BlueCherry® Enterprise Suite](#) provides clients with a powerful, comprehensive set of tools to drive their fundamental business processes. It focuses on the needs of high-growth organizations operating in the consumer lifestyle products, retail and apparel industries. The BlueCherry Enterprise Suite's built-in capacity addresses the needs of all core management, planning, product development, manufacturing, logistics, finance, and sales functions.

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Product News

Centric Software Unveils Game-Changing Visual Studio Boards

2 May 2018

Building on its strategy to develop innovations that drive retail transformation for brands, retailers and manufacturers, PLM leader Centric Software announces a new addition to the Centric Visual Innovation Platform (Centric VIP). Visual Studio Boards vitalizes idea creation and sharing for design studios and production teams.

Centric VIP, for visual, touch-based devices such as tablets and touchscreen televisions, is fully connected with Centric PLM and is a platform dedicated to mood, material, style, allocation,

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merchandising, line and sales boards. This innovative platform drives digital transformation and decision-making, significantly reducing time to market and generating major productivity gains for creative and technical teams as well as executives.

Visual Studio Boards are a highly collaborative, visual sandbox environment where designers can be creative and play yet also share ideas with other teams. Designers can pull in sketches, images, colors, materials and more from previous collections and desktop files as well as directly from a web browser, such as an image search or a trend service site. They can create new information on the fly and build ideas for products and collections. As ideas mature, product development and production teams add their input resulting in more creative, higher quality and higher margin products.

Information syncs seamlessly giving teams a global view of materials, colors and styles, and allowing them to make decisions and see changes live. Teams can be located in the same room or around the world and, as Centric VIP is system-agnostic, information can be drawn from Centric 8 PLM or other business systems such as ERP, PIM, DAM, etc.

Today, the design process revolves around paper-based, cumbersome ways of working: printed spreadsheets made into ‘books’ and large foam core boards filled with cut-outs, handwritten notes, post-its, stickers and other bits of information. These analog ways of working are extremely time-consuming to compile and prone to error, with output impossible to communicate and execute quickly and accurately. Creativity is often hampered due to the lack of easy to understand, clear information and time lost searching for details.

Visual Studio Boards make ideas flow smoothly from designers to product teams for commercialization and production. In this new digital space, designers and other teams can ideate without limits, evolve concepts to maturity and execute them in collaboration with one another to boost innovation and quality while drastically cutting time to market.

“Visual Studio Boards are a game-changing, completely market-driven innovation that transforms the design and ideation process,” says Chris Groves, President and CEO of Centric Software. “They let creativity flourish while also taking advantage of technical and production expertise to speed time to market, boost innovation and improve product quality.”

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Electromagnetics Software Release Targets e-Mobility and Communications Markets

2 May 2018

[Altair](#) has released the 2018 versions of leading electromagnetic (EM) simulation software FEKO®, WinProp®, Flux® and FluxMotor®. These electromagnetic solver tools, part of Altair’s HyperWorks®, The Platform for Innovation™, are widely used to accelerate the global design process for the automotive, aerospace, defense, communications, consumer electronics, energy, and healthcare industries.

“We are excited by the latest release of our electromagnetic tools to support our customers as they move toward broad deployment of products relevant to e-mobility and communications, Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things. The range of applications covers electromagnetic problems across the whole frequency range from DC into THz, integrated within Altair’s multiphysics modeling environment for

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multidisciplinary system optimization,” said Ulrich Jakobus, Senior VP for EM Solutions at Altair.

The rich set of features in the 2018 release of the HyperWorks electromagnetic simulation solutions portfolio broadens functionality, simplifies workflows, and enhances the user experience. For example, a novel workflow has been implemented in [FEKO 2018](#), that facilitates characterizing multi-layered dielectrics. With this, transmission loss and bore-sight error can be computed for arbitrarily shaped radomes more efficiently and with greater flexibility than ever before. Another example is the addition of new features in [Flux 2018](#) bringing new capabilities for CAD geometry simplification and meshing, improving workflow, and increasing flexibility with the ability to solve faster in 3D using new HPC resources.

Long-term Flux customer Valeo, is a leading automotive supplier working on e-mobility. “After a short online presentation, I was able to connect my Flux project to HyperStudy optimization software and obtain my first results in 30 minutes. I was very pleasantly surprised,” notes Jean-Claude Mipo, Advanced Technology Manager at Valeo.

Watch the complete [webinar series](#) to learn more about applications from smart control design to powertrain electrification and vehicle architecture studies, and how Altair’s solutions enable multidomain optimization throughout the product development cycle.

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Introducing the Operator Framework: Building Apps on Kubernetes

1 May 2018

Announced on the Red Hat blog:

“To help make it easier to build Kubernetes applications, Red Hat and the Kubernetes open source community today share the [Operator Framework](#) -- an open source toolkit designed to manage Kubernetes native applications, called Operators, in a more effective, automated, and scalable way...”

“We believe that the new Operator Framework represents the next big step for Kubernetes by using a baseline of leading practices to help lower the application development barrier on Kubernetes. The project delivers a software development kit (SDK) and the ability to manage app installs and updates by using the lifecycle management mechanism, while enabling administrators to exercise operator capabilities on any Kubernetes cluster...”

Read the full announcement here: <https://www.redhat.com/en/blog/introducing-operator-framework-building-apps-kubernetes?source=bloglisting>

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OpenText Secures Digital Transformation Across the Intelligent and Connected Enterprise

2 May 2018

OpenText™ today announced [OpenText Release 16](#) Enhancement Pack 4 (EP4). This release further

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extends security, artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things (IoT), and cloud support into the market-leading OpenText EIM platform.

“The world’s leading organizations use the OpenText EIM platform to manage and gain insights from their critical information assets” said Mark J. Barrenechea, OpenText Vice Chair, CEO and CTO. “This latest release enhances protection of these assets from threats and data breaches, while continuing to expand support for advanced AI and extreme automation use-cases.”

Barrenechea continued, “Cybersecurity vulnerabilities represent a real and present threat to today’s digital organization. The value of information in our modern economy requires data-intensive companies to contend with a barrage of cyberattacks, the risk of data breaches, and the growing impact of data privacy regulations. Building any business requires companies to develop and maintain trust with their customers and suppliers. Intelligent and connected enterprises must effectively use, protect, and steward their information in a secured manner.”

OpenText Release 16 EP4 makes it easier for organizations to move to the right hybrid or fully managed cloud environment. New cloud connectors continue to place the OpenText ecosystem at the center of digital business, while working seamlessly with the best-in-breed technologies in asset and resource management, operations, content creation, and content collaboration.

“OpenText is leading the way in how AI will transform EIM and we are revolutionizing how connected enterprises engage with data and information,” said Barrenechea. “Release 16 EP4 creates new opportunities for our customers to leverage the power of hybrid cloud, IoT, AI, and automation to improve the way they securely operate and innovate.”

EP4 brings significant enhancements across Release 16:

- **AppWorks:** OpenText Process Suite is now AppWorks, a fully customizable automation platform that delivers a compelling low-code development experience and new support for developers.
- **Content:** Expanding on the simplified user experiences delivered in R16, Content Services EP4 further deepens integrations with leading process applications to drive productivity, strengthens compliance with automated capture of metadata, enhances cloud readiness and advances analytics and reporting. OpenText iHub analytics and reporting are added to OpenText eDOCS.
- **Experience:** Exstream brings agile cloud CCM applications to omni-channel communications with automated job visualization and end-to-end tracking analysis. TeamSite will take advantage of machine intelligence capabilities to extract concepts and is now enabled with “Search Engine as a Service” and “Taxonomy as a Service” capabilities. For a call center in the cloud, Qfiniti is listed on the AWS Marketplace leveraging Amazon Connect.
- **Security:** OpenText EnCase Endpoint Security adds bi-directional Splunk integration and other new tools for automated and expedited incident response.
- **Discovery:** OpenText Axcelerate adds performance, usability and compatibility enhancements for eDiscovery and investigations, plus new data collection services powered by EnCase.
- **Analytics:** OpenText Magellan introduces out-of-the-box Content Services Platform connectors for integrated content mining, extended data loading options for analysts and business users, and a deeper leveraging of Hadoop and Spark for data processing and Machine Learning.
- **Business Network:** New integrations with AppWorks and Covisint create new opportunities for

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automation and IoT. This release of the OpenText Trading Grid bundles predictive analytics for all new customers. OpenText also now offers a new RightFax Managed Services solution, helping companies implement secure communications across their entire business ecosystem while leveraging OpenText people, process and technology.

Availability [OpenText Release 16](#) EP4 is available now.

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Schneider Electric Accelerates Digitization In The Food & Beverage Industry With A New Application For Managing Product Data

5 April 2018

With evolving distribution systems and consumer needs, food & beverage manufacturers are looking for solutions to improve the organization, management and security of their product data in a shared system. Schneider Electric, the leader in digital transformation of energy management and automation, is now offering a new tool, PIM Powered by Agena3000, capable of centralizing, standardizing and distributing all updated product data with complete security. For this solution, Schneider Electric is drawing on the expertise of Agena3000, a French specialist in food & beverage product information management (PIM).

Manufacturers faced with an exponential rise in data

With the global trend for digitization and growing consumer demand for trusted, transparent access to more relevant, reliable information on their choices, mass retailers and e-tailers are using innovative technologies, such as connected objects (IoT) and mobile apps, to meet their customers' needs. According to an IDC report published in 2017, the production of data should increase tenfold by 2024. Processing production, consumer and logistics data, and sending it to the right people is becoming a headache for manufacturers. They need to send this data in increasingly short deadlines, with near real-time becoming the norm in e-commerce.

A 360° vision of data in line with the GS1 standard

At its Innovation Summit, hosting more than 5,000 experts, customers and partners from all over the world on April 5-6, 2018 at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, Schneider Electric will present during its Schneider World Premiere the latest innovations in its EcoStruxure™ IoT-enabled, plug and play, open, interoperable, architecture and platform. EcoStruxure™ delivers enhanced value around safety, reliability, efficiency, sustainability, and connectivity. EcoStruxure™ leverages advancements in IoT, mobility, sensing, cloud, analytics and cybersecurity to deliver Innovation at every level, from Connected Products, Edge Control to Apps, Analytics & Services. EcoStruxure™ has been deployed in 480,000+ installations, with the support of 20,000+ system integrators, connecting over 1.5 million assets. On this occasion, Schneider Electric will unveil its new PIM Powered by Agena3000 app for reliable, efficient product information management. PIM Powered by Agena3000 will be part of EcoStruxure for Food & Beverage.

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Benjamin Jude, Food & Beverage Segment Solution Architect at Schneider Electric, explained: “Production information management (PIM) is a system of reference that centralizes all end-product data and makes it available to stakeholders internally and externally, from e-commerce platforms to stores.” All the data handled by PIM Powered by Agena3000 will be constantly updated and comply with GS1, the global standard for encoding information produced by the food & beverage industry (product codes, ingredients, additives, consumer information, composition, allergens, etc.) adopted by all major retailers and e-tailers.

Combining Schneider Electric’s industrial know-how with Agena3000’s food & beverage PIM expertise

To develop this offering, Schneider Electric has partnered with French software provider Agena3000, which has 30 years of experience in standardizing product information managed by manufacturers for major retailers. Stéphane Lopez, channel director at Agena300, commented: “The GS1 standard is a mark of trust and security for distributors We bring our expertise in data standardization and ensure updates, especially local adaptations of GS1 from one country to another.” The company is also able to address specific requests by a distributor, such as a specific format and definition for product photos.

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