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CIMdata News

Developing Safe Autonomous Vehicles for Innovative Transportation Experiences (CIMdata Commentary)

11 October 2018

Key takeaways:

- *Siemens PLM Software (Siemens) has a deep understanding of the verification and validation challenges faced by the automotive industry related to safety certification of autonomous vehicles.*
- *Siemens offers numerous solutions for simulating accident scenarios, active safety sensors, sensor-fusion, systems-of-systems, system-on-chip, functional safety, vehicle dynamics, and robust control.*
- *Simulation offerings by Siemens accelerate the development of autonomous vehicles (AVs) by: i) generating a large set of realistic accident scenarios, ii) reliably simulating the response of complex systems, and iii) optimizing system-performance while minimizing energy consumption.*
- *Simulation offerings by Siemens are not only helping manufacturers develop safe and certifiable AVs, they also are versatile for developing innovative vehicle architectures and interior concepts that could help develop new autonomous mobility experiences.*

The Vision of Autonomous Vehicles and the Certification Challenge

The capability of integrating advanced sensors in automobiles, along with the computational power that can enable real-time artificial intelligence, is driving the development of autonomous road vehicles. The expectation is that crash-avoidance capabilities will significantly reduce fatalities and severe injuries, and, the ability to plan routes and maneuver through traffic will mitigate congestion and environmental pollution, while reducing occupant stress and increasing productivity.

One can imagine that once autonomous road vehicles are certified as safe, they will become platforms for the future innovation of entirely new experiences and business models not realizable today. However, several crucial elements such as validation of customers' expectations, road and traffic scenarios to be negotiated by the vehicles, verification of the functional and non-functional requirements, as well as certification of vehicles as roadworthy over their life, are still evolving. The most crucial is safety assurance in complex traffic scenarios which include driven and parked vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, traffic signals, and detour postings, in different light and weather conditions. Although drivers have been dealing with complex road and traffic situations for over a century,

translating that into artificial intelligence which relies on advanced sensors and sensor-fusion, remains challenging.

For the last 8 or 9 years, manufacturers, suppliers, and startups worldwide have been testing automated and autonomous vehicle-prototypes on public roads to better understand the interaction between their research vehicles and the current driving environment. Over the same period, controlled traffic scenarios have also been studied to develop test-procedures for critical maneuvers most relevant for safety. However, these islands of information are not enough individually to give the necessary insights and, there is limited pooling of those insights between potential vehicle manufacturers, although a few autonomous vehicle consortia do exist. According to one estimate¹, developing AVs based purely on physical prototype-testing would require several billion driven-miles, making it infeasible for guaranteeing safe designs.

The certification of AVs will need much more data, pertaining to their safe performance in all driving environments than is available today. Developing autonomous vehicles based purely on physical prototype-testing is not only proving cost-prohibitive, it is also delaying their production, sales, and benefits. To accelerate the development and the demonstration of safe-functioning AVs, a simulation-based approach should be pursued. Physical testing of prototypes should be conducted only after virtual conception, design, verification, and validation have successfully been achieved.

Simulation Needs of Autonomous Vehicle Design

AVs need advanced sensors such as RADAR, LIDAR, and cameras to identify the road, traffic, pedestrians, signals, sign posts, and obstacles in addition to the sensors that monitor the changing state of the vehicle. AVs also need real-time computational capability for perception, decision-making, motion-planning, and motion control. These capabilities demand more sensors, electronics, and software than current conventional vehicles, which already use at least 30 sensors, 10 electronic control units (ECUs), and 50+ million lines of software.

The main challenges of designing AVs are:

1. Development of robust algorithms for reliably perceiving the rapidly evolving road and traffic scenarios
2. Development of reliable sensor-fusion algorithms for elevating confidence in the interpreted information, despite the limitations of individual sensors in complex traffic and weather conditions
3. Robust integration of autonomous driving sensors and ECUs with the other systems that perform functions commonly expected in a modern vehicle

Considerable creative effort towards overcoming these challenges has been expended by many organizations across the world that are working on developing AVs. However, the need to substantially accelerate and validate this effort through simulation remains.

A hierarchical set of mathematical models extending from system-on-chip (SoC) performance to entire AV response in its driving environment, including intermediate models that enable swapping of hardware (HW) and software (SW) elements in hardware-in-loop (HIL) and software-in-loop (SIL) analyses, is imperative. Conceiving and proving designs, based on a series of hierarchical layers of

¹ Driving to Safety: How Many Miles of Driving Would it Take to Demonstrate Autonomous Vehicle Reliability, RAND Corporation, 2016

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simulations is not only feasible with the computational power and simulation tools available today, it should be the first step that innovators take when developing complex systems such as AVs. The following are the focus areas for developing robust AVs:

- Sensing of environment surrounding the vehicle
- Perception, planning, and decision-making for vehicle control
- Actuation for motion control
- Driving environment and traffic modeling for simulated testing
- Vehicle performance and dynamics
- System level design, verification, validation, functional safety, security
- Vehicle level design, verification, validation, certification / homologation

Realistic, validated mathematical models of sensors such as RADAR, LIDAR, and cameras are needed for developing vehicle models that can interact virtually with the environment and traffic for studying potential driving and accident scenarios.

The ability to perceive the environment, plan the incremental path, and make decisions about controlling the motion in a continuously changing environment is a human capability that needs to be emulated through artificial intelligence. This involves millions of lines of code whose reliability is at the heart of the safe operation of AVs. Sensor-fusion is a major part of the algorithm development because of the need for robust perception despite some individual sensors not performing reliably due to natural restrictions or faulty outputs.

Simulation Capability from Siemens for Autonomous Vehicles Design

Siemens' simulation capabilities from acquisitions of LMS, CD-adapco, Polarion, Mentor, TASS, Infolytica, Sarakol and other solutions integrated with the other offerings, help accelerate the development of AVs. Their main idea is to explore the boundaries of the problem domain using a large number of digital simulations combined with physical tests to explore subsystems virtually before going to physical vehicle testing. This creates an environment in which the digital representations are enriched based on physical tests and the physical components and subsystems are improved based on numerical simulations.

Siemens' Simcenter PreScan™ pre-crash analysis tools offer realistic models for several sensors such as mono and stereo cameras, fisheye camera, RADAR, LIDAR, and dedicated short range communication (DSRC) devices. These sensor models are implemented with vehicle dynamics models by automotive OEMs and suppliers for simulating performance of vehicles in mapped environments, such as city streets and highways and the American Center for Mobility of which Siemens is a partner. Siemens also offers simulation tools such as FloEFD, FloTHERM, Simcenter 3D, and Xpedition to support detailed sensor development to ensure their durability under practical considerations of vehicle-integration, while optimizing the number and the size of the sensors in terms of performance and cost.

The unfiltered outputs from the sensor models and physical sensors can be fed into Siemens' centralized data processing platform DRS 360™. The centralized processing and the acceptance of unfiltered sensor outputs significantly mitigates latency issues thus improving real-time control. The sensor outputs are fused together for perceiving the road, traffic, and other occupants, and for classifying and tracking them as the vehicle moves. The platform accommodates a wide array of sensors from leading

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suppliers for delivering other key functionality in addition to sensor-fusion such as event detection, semantic perception of objects, situational awareness, path planning, and actuator control.

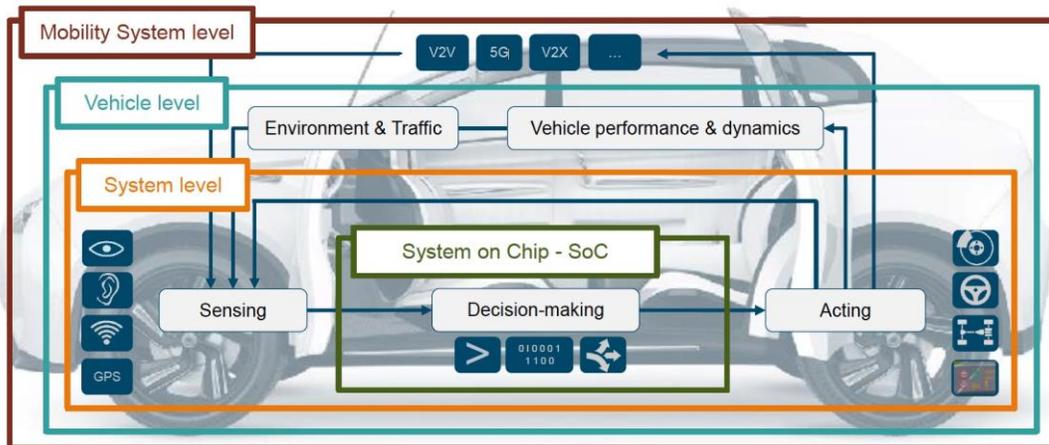
The Siemens approach to AVs is through the interaction of two digital-twins, one for the vehicle and one for the environment and traffic. The digital-twin for the environment and traffic is created in Simcenter PreScan. The real video images are taken into Simcenter PreScan and converted into synthetic environments for segmentation into road edges, buildings, vehicles, bicycles, and roadside features. Siemens also can integrate vehicle videos from over 30,000 accidents in the German In-depth Accident Study (GIDAS). The environment and traffic digital-twin formed this way can accept the vehicle digital-twin and be used to analyze millions of accident scenarios to establish the cases necessary for the next level of studies in verification and validation.

The SoC development is carried out using Mentor Veloce emulator for integrated circuit (IC) design, which uses a special purpose supercomputer for validating performance in terms of computation power and temperature. The Simcenter digital twin of the AV is used to validate the performance of the IC designs. The objective is to work on the requirements, the development, and the testing of ICs virtually, very early in the overall development process at the SoC suppliers, the Tier 1 suppliers, and the OEMs.

Embedded software development is carried out in parallel with the mechanical and the electrical systems development via a model-based systems engineering approach using Siemens' Application Lifecycle Management offering, Polarion. The development begins with the requirements followed by the software and electrical systems architecture development, software development, software integration, and software testing. The process is orchestrated by Teamcenter and supported by other tools such as Capital, Volcano, and Simcenter Embedded Software Designer.

The algorithm development for trajectory planning and motion control is supported by Siemens through their consultancy service which has expertise in Model Predictive Control (MPC). In MPC, the prediction model is based on input constraints and dynamic constraints, while the control objectives are derived for the requirements of the smoothness of the trajectory, safe cornering, and fuel consumption. The dynamic trajectory optimization in MPC is achieved by applying either the receding horizon approximation or the sequential quadratic programming.

Complex interdisciplinary engineering of mechanical, electrical, and software content is needed to develop prototypes whose functional safety has been carefully considered. Essentially, systems engineering must be employed to ensure the safe functioning of prototype AV—for testing them on public roads, test-beds, and validation of concepts.



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Figure 1—Siemens' Approach to Autonomous Vehicle Design
(Courtesy of Siemens PLM Solutions)

Siemens enables systems engineering of AVs based on its product innovation platform which covers SoC development, autonomous driving computation, embedded software development, control algorithms development, sensor and environment modeling, systems integration, and vehicle development and occupant response (Figure.1).

Summary

Over the years, CIMdata has kept track of the evolution of automated and autonomous vehicles and the technological inventions that are enabling them. CIMdata is also closely following the challenges created by the design, verification, validation, and certification of AVs. Today, these activities for conventional automobiles are done virtually to a large extent. That is possible because the information available about their interaction with roads and the traffic is exhaustive, and their certification process is well-established. This is not the case with AVs. Their interaction with roads and traffic is not well understood. They need to be studied in millions of road and traffic scenarios before we can incrementally improve their capability for perception, path-planning, and motion control to acceptable levels.

Siemens Simcenter PreScan, which converts environment and traffic videos into synthetic pre-crash scenarios for developing the digital twin of the road and the traffic, is a practical tool for substantially reducing the number of miles that an AV prototype needs to physically drive, to identify and validate critical traffic and accident scenarios. Furthermore, Siemens' offerings that support the development of digital twins for conventional vehicles are extendable to the development of AVs.

Siemens offerings can help simulate the response of components, subsystems, and systems going from SoC to the combined digital twins of the AVs and the driving environment. This capability of modeling and simulation at the micro and the macro levels is crucial for design, verification, and validation every step of the way from silicon, SoC, IC boards, ECUs, subsystems, and the entire vehicle to the vehicle within the environment in which it is expected to operate.

Finally, the simulation capabilities of Siemens associated with generative design, advanced materials, and vehicle interior design can help create several new experiences related to mobility in the future. As one of the main benefits of AVs is crash avoidance, the material included in vehicle body structures related to traditional crashworthiness designs could be reduced. Additionally, the passive safety protection of vehicle occupants constrains interior designs today. With AVs capable of making evasive maneuvers, the closing speeds with other vehicles in the event of a crash should be substantially lower than today, and that can help reduce the weight of interior elements such as seats and passive restraints. Many options for creative designs for vehicle interiors and overall vehicle architecture will become possible once AVs can be validated as roadworthy. However, establishing roadworthiness of AVs is the first hurdle—a hurdle that the broad set of Siemens offerings would be able to help accelerate that development substantially.

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

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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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Dr. Keith Meintjes, a CIMdata Executive Consultant, will Host Sessions on Vehicle Exteriors at the Lightweighting World Expo 2018

8 October 2018

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm, is pleased to announce that Dr. Keith Meintjes, a CIMdata Executive Consultant, will host two sessions at the Lightweighting World Expo, which takes place at the Suburban Collection Showplace, in Novi, Michigan from October 9-10. The sessions Dr. Meintjes will host are concerned with vehicle exterior design and manufacturing.

Through a variety of strategies, automobile manufacturers are removing hundreds of pounds of mass from their products, while maintaining interior space and meeting ever more stringent customer expectations and regulatory requirements.

Dr. Meintjes stated, "These are exciting times. We are seeing dramatic improvements not only in simulation and optimization, but also in materials and manufacturing that combine to enable huge advances in vehicle engineering and production that were considered infeasible just a few years ago."

Dr. Meintjes has over 35 years of experience in the development and application of simulation tools to transform product development. His achievements include novel methods for combustion simulation, patents for engine design, and strategic planning for the world's largest commercial HPC facility. Prior to joining CIMdata, he spent nearly 30 years at General Motors and was responsible for the engineering requirements for GM's Global CAE IT infrastructure and was named Senior Technical Fellow.

For more information on the Lightweighting World Expo visit:

<https://www.cimdata.com/en/events/event/422-lightweighting-world-expo-2018>

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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

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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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Generating the Next Step: Autodesk Accelerate 2018 (CIMdata Commentary)

9 October 2018

Key takeaways:

- *Autodesk continues to build out their product innovation platform vision to enable an integrated “Design-Make-Use” lifecycle view.*
- *Their Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle solution is empowering a range of industrial companies to improve their products and processes, including more support for engineering work-in-process.*
- *Autodesk is expanding the use of generative design technology to other manufacturing processes and other domains, like AEC.*

CIMdata had the pleasure to attend the 5th annual Autodesk Accelerate event in Toronto, Canada in September. As in past events, the crowd of approximately 275 was a good mix of Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle customers, prospects, partners, and Autodesk staff. The event was held at the MaRS Innovation, the center of an innovation hub originally focused on “Medical and Related Sciences” that is adjacent to the University of Toronto and its affiliated research hospitals at the University Health Network.

Mr. Stephen Hooper, Vice President and General Manager for all Autodesk Fusion products, opened the event with his remarks on “The Future of Making.” Autodesk has had consistent messaging in this area for some time. Their goal is to fuse their offerings, pun intended, to democratize product creation. They want to blur the lines between the traditional PLM tool segments that CIMdata and others measure, like mechanical computer-aided design (MCAD), computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), simulation and analysis (S&A), and electrical computer-aided design (ECAD). The vision is for users to work in one environment using the tools they need at the moment (e.g., MCAD) while supported in their efforts by other functionality (e.g., S&A) that is part of Autodesk’s product innovation platform as shown in Figure 1. They are intentionally blurring the lines between their applications, sometimes to the detriment of those that have brand recognition in the market. In discussions with Autodesk it seemed that brand equity was a small price to pay to achieve their “design-make-use” vision. Autodesk has long advocated for democratization of product development tools and capabilities, a goal CIMdata has also supported, and this is the price one pays for making advanced capabilities part of lifecycle workflows.

A key element of Mr. Hooper’s talk and Autodesk’s strategy is to put data at the center of the process. There are a lot of steps to take an idea to market profitably. Each step generates more information enriching the data set. While having the data at the center induces a mental image, really Autodesk is just talking about the digital thread, the associative knowledge store that spans product ideation through life. This enrichment process includes Delcam, a leading independent CAM solution provider Autodesk acquired in 2014. Any moves to better use Delcam would be welcome since they were known for their superior technology and know-how.

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of Quality Assurance and Mr. Madhav Pasumarti, Senior PLM Systems Administrator talked about their winding PLM journey. Unfortunately, their story is all too common, with organizational twists and turns part of many PLM journeys. Aclara provides smart infrastructure solutions, using different communications technologies (like RF, cellular, and powerline) in their automated water, gas, and electric meters. Aclara had a legacy PLM solution they wanted to replace. They needed something newer that was easier to tailor and expand using their limited resources. Once deciding on Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle, they were able to readily leverage the many process templates that are standard issue with the solution. They could adapt these processes in a sandbox environment, testing them until they were ready for prime time. Their Octopart integration puts up to date electronic part information at their fingertips vs. Googling and uploading often old information. Their plan focused on getting all their legacy-managed IP on Fusion Lifecycle, while also integrating Cadence, Creo, and SOLIDWORKS. To move some of the data, Aclara used Jitterbit, an integration solution from a long-time Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle partner. Just when their PLM journey seemed ready to smooth out came the re-plan. Aclara was purchased by Sun Capital Partners who wanted to grow the company substantially. The team also had to now consider the needs of another business unit, this one currently relying on ENOVIA from Dassault Systèmes. They needed to support a move while not affecting ENOVIA0-based business processes. This meant more Fusion Lifecycle workspaces and data import. This change delayed their project by 9 months. Then add another move, this time spinning out from Sun Capital Partners to a subsidiary of Hubbell in early 2018. Despite all this turmoil the team has made a huge amount of progress and it was good to see a customer interested in managing engineering work in progress as part of product development. Many Fusion Lifecycle customers are using the solution for other business processes, often leveraging product data or metadata.

As stated earlier, the event was held at MaRS Innovation, a new space designed, in part, using Autodesk generative design technology. Dubbed Project Discover, the team started with high-level goals and constraints and generated thousands of design alternatives. What did they optimize on? Some were fixed, like the size of the physical space available. Others were more esoteric, like demands for conference room space, access to daylight and outside views, and even the need to be around “buzz” were considered. Each design alternative was scored based on how well they met the criteria and 10 were taken back to Autodesk for review with stakeholders.² This is an interesting application of this computationally intensive solution, one that resonates with others in the market also pushing the bounds of this approach. A few weeks before, Altair Engineering announced Altair Inspire, generative design solutions focusing on other manufacturing processes other than additive manufacturing. Around the same time, Siemen PLM Software discussed their intent to support generative engineering, they claimed a step up from generative design of parts, to focus on assemblies and subsystems. This trend makes sense. It harkens back to semiconductor design where the designs got so complex that humans could not efficiently create them, necessitating silicon compilers where designers could use larger building blocks to make complex designs. In the case of generative, it is not that we can’t do it, it is just that computing gives us new tools to evaluate more alternatives than we could come up with given a lifetime. Advancing this capability is another important tool in getting to those markets of one while still making a profit. We applaud all of these firms and look forward to seeing how this approach evolves over the next few years.

In conclusion, the Autodesk Accelerate event provided a good window into the on-going evolution of Autodesk’s strategy and product offerings, and some great stories on how their customers are leveraging these solutions to meet their pressing business requirements. Autodesk still has a long way to go in

² https://www.architectmagazine.com/project-gallery/autodesk-mars-office_o

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achieving their democratization vision but they have many of the pieces already in-house. What they showed and discussed in Toronto demonstrated real progress, something that should be in more evidence at their big annual event, Autodesk University in November, where there are more sessions led by Autodesk focusing on these topics. As for the Accelerate roadshow, next stop Grand Rapids, MI due, in part, to their on-going work with Steelcase.

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Key Sponsors of PLM Road Map™ EMEA 2018 and PDT Europe 2018 Announced

12 October 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 EMEA and PDT Europe conferences. The participating sponsors are Aras Corporation, ESI, ESTECO, Granta Design, HCL Technologies, Oracle, and TCS. The events will take place on 24-25 October at Le Méridien Hotel in Stuttgart, Germany.

“We are honored to have these leaders in PLM solutions and services choose to sponsor PLM Road Map EMEA 2018 and PDT Europe 2018,” stated Cheryl Peck, Director of Marketing at CIMdata and Event Manager for PLM Road Map. “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-plmrmeurope-pdt/2018-plmrmeurope-pdt-sponsors>

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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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Rethinking the Enterprise: Inforum 2018 (CIMdata Commentary)

10 October 2018

Key takeaways:

- *Infor, a leading enterprise software company, has seen dramatic growth with their CloudSuite strategy, delivering cloud-native multi-tenant applications using Amazon Web Services.*
- *They are rethinking enterprise processes and applications and deploying new Infor Go capabilities that deliver mobile and cloud apps that work in concert to support anytime, anywhere access to Infor offerings.*
- *Their work in analytics with their Birst acquisition and their Coleman initiative are bringing augmented intelligence to the point of work.*

On September 24-27, 2018, Infor, a leading enterprise software firm, held Inforum 2018, their annual customer event, in Washington, DC. Infor is a company of many brands that, under the leadership of CEO Charles Phillips, is making the pivot to the cloud by offering CloudSuites, industry-focused bundles of Infor solutions built around an Infor enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution focused on that industry. The private company does not publish financials, but their software as a service (SaaS) growth is outstripping their on-premise license declines and the future looks bright. While all of their product lifecycle management (PLM) offerings do not currently play a big role in their CloudSuite offerings, Infor is investing in the space, white labeling Aras Innovator as Infor PLM Accelerate. Based on CIMdata's estimates of PLM market revenues, Infor's Optiva formulation solution is one of the leaders in its market space and has benefitted from very strong growth over the last several years. It is playing an increasing role in Infor CloudSuite sales to process manufacturers as part of the M3-based Food & Beverage CloudSuite. Finally, their fashion PLM offering has a good following in the retail, footwear, and apparel (RFA) space. During the event, Infor announced a new cloud-native multi-tenant solution for RFA enterprises called Fashion Cloud PLM. Beyond product development, Infor also has a strong enterprise asset management (EAM) offering and Infor Configure-Price-Quote (CPQ) that can be readily leveraged in configure to order (CTO) and engineer to order (ETO) businesses.

On September 24 Infor convened an analyst track for market analysts and press. In these sessions, Infor

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leaders provide updates on their area or offering, including a Q&A session. Ms. Ashley Hart, Infor Chief Marketing Officer, provided an update on their marketing strategy and tactics. Ms. Hart joined Infor in March and has been ramping up her knowledge while building out her teams and revamping the messages and marketing strategies. According to Ms. Hart, historically Infor advertised products, not brands and did not talk about their customers. She is leading a big change for Infor, focusing on how their customers are getting value from using Infor solutions. Her team has been building a common set of messages for deployment across all of their information channels, including a global advertising campaign, Infor Designed for Progress, that will be seen on CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, Bloomberg, the BBC, and other outlets. CIMdata has seen the benefits of name recognition campaigns for other PLM solution providers, like Dassault Systèmes, and it is important for Infor given their short history as Infor (since 2002).

Infor has also tried to differentiate themselves with their focus on design thinking and agile. In 2012, Infor created Hook & Loop, an internal creative agency to bring their talents to creating enhance user experiences (UX). Mr. Nunzio Esposito, Vice President of Hook & Loop, claimed that the future of work is driving a higher, consumer grade experience in enterprise software, focusing more on mobile-only paradigms. Their development relies on leveraging their Infor OS and Coleman, their artificial intelligence capabilities that will be integrated in many aspects of their portfolio. The user will decide the device on which they will start their workflow and then can finish it on another device. To reach this goal, Infor is trying to fundamentally rethink enterprise applications. Shallow and broad solutions can access the entire cloud suite, enabling lightweight workflows curated by the user. Deep and narrow applications are purpose-built, with complex contextual workflows. These two levels of applications are each aware of the other and strive to only provide the user with what they need at that moment. They also consider gamification, i.e., adding game-like elements to the application to encourage the desired behaviors. These CloudSuite-on-the-go offerings, dubbed Infor Go, are positioned as the gateway to the enterprise. The first two domains for Infor Go application are Infor CRM (customer relationship management), which Infor has been busy re-platforming and Infor HCM (human capital management). This is an exciting move. Many leading enterprise software companies are trying to leverage AI and mobile to provide anywhere access to context-driven applications and data. But Infor is the first to try to take this fundamental rethinking step, unpacking what enterprise software companies have spent years and countless dollars creating. This approach and the solution are new and CIMdata looks forward to future events where we can see how customers are using them in practice.

Infor also provided an update on Coleman,³ their AI initiative that leverages their Infor OS, itself a set of capabilities including the Infor Cloud built on Amazon Web Services (AWS), Infor Ming.le, their social collaboration platform, and Infor ION, their cloud-native integration platform as a service (iPaaS) platform built using HTML5 and open-source technologies. Coleman honors Katherine Coleman Johnson, a physicist and mathematician whose calculations helped man reach the moon. Her story was immortalized in the 2016 film “Hidden Figures” and her name is the perfect symbol for Infor’s offering. Coleman includes a number of elements, such as voice recognition, image recognition, enterprise skills (more than chatbots, claims Infor), citizen machine language modeler and skill builder (not everyone is a data scientist), and embedded AI. They are using these building blocks to answer complex questions about what is happening in the enterprise, e.g., What is the price point for Product X? What is the lead time for product Y? These are common questions posed in enterprise systems but Infor wants to make the answers routine, possibly to questions spoken to Coleman using Alexa for Business, an Infor partner. Their goal, like that of others, is augmented decision making. Just as IBM sees applications of Watson to

³ <https://www.infor.com/news/infor-announces-coleman-ai-platform>

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many business issues, Infor sees Coleman as providing vital assistance in healthcare inventory optimization, price optimization, demand forecasting, predictive maintenance, assortment optimization, talent profiling, predictive attrition, and team building. This is an impressive list, one that Infor is building out. This technology is providing an interesting dynamic, with IBM looking to leverage their impressive customer base and digestion of relevant content to teach Watson about a given area, while the enterprise software companies are trying to use many of the same approaches and technologies within their applications. Which approach will win? It seems like the enterprise software companies should have the upper hand.

Another recent acquisition highlighted at Inforum was Birst, a cloud-based analytics company that Infor acquired in 2017. Based on the presentation it has been a whirlwind year with Birst adding 48% more sales reps, 67% more R&D staff, and thousands of industry reps and partners now being part of Infor. The results have been impressive, with logins to their service growing more than 4x in one year. In the past 4 quarters Birst's offerings have become the #2 SaaS product at Infor, which is impressive given Infor's commitment to SaaS and its dominance in their financial results. On the technical side, Birst focused on natively integrating with the Infor OS and then worked with the CloudSuite owners to build out specific content. They will be rolling out CloudSuite offerings over the next several years. CIMdata is pleased to see an acquisition work out so positively, which is not always the case. Analytics is a necessary core competency and going cloud-native with Birst was a great idea. Their importance will only grow as they work more in concert with Coleman to provide insights for Infor's customers.

After getting all of the details, the Tuesday plenary session put the analyst crowd in the general population, with the thousands of enthusiastic Infor customers. The Infor executive team took the stage backed by the Howard University Showtime Marching Band, a group very familiar to Mr. Phillips, who explained he matriculated down the road at Hampton University. The groups precision and syncopation were a good warm-up for the procession of Infor execs talking about their focus areas. They have been very precise in executing their CloudSuite strategy, rewriting their solutions for the cloud (investing over \$3 billion, claimed Mr. Phillips) and targeting "last mile" features for industry to limit customization or third-party services. The results to date have been impressive. Infor has grown to over \$3 billion in revenues, with their SaaS revenue increasing 35.3% in their last fiscal year (2018, ended April 30, 2018). In a slide from the executive keynote Infor claimed their 12 Infor CloudSuites now have over 77 million subscribers. Each CloudSuite team is working to best leverage Coleman and Birst within the context of their industries. CIMdata is impressed with their focus and their outstanding results. We look forward to seeing how Infor will leverage these same technologies and approaches in their PLM portfolio. At the event they announced a cloud-native multi-tenant RFA offering, Infor Fashion PLM Cloud, which is available for standalone provisioning today and will be available as an option with CloudSuite Fashion, planned for November 2018. Again, this is a great sign. Recreating on-premise applications as cloud-native multi-tenant solutions is a huge investment but an essential one with the world moving to the cloud. This is a great move for Infor's RFA customers and prospects.

Inforum offered so much more than can be reflected in this commentary. With their focus on thought leaders, the agenda also featured Van Jones, TV personality and activist, as well as Venus Williams, the grand dame of women's tennis who lead the fight for equal pay at Grand Slam events. Infor has done much of the hard work, rebuilding their on-premise applications from scratch as multi-tenant cloud SaaS offerings. CIMdata agrees that their industry-focused CloudSuites are exceptional in the industry and the business results speak for that. But CIMdata thinks that PLM is ready for its "close-up" in their strategy, with all of their offerings fully empowered using the Infor OS and Coleman and fully incorporated in the CloudSuite offerings. If Infor can rethink PLM like they are rethinking other enterprise categories it

could get very interesting.

About CIMdata

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

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Acquisitions

Atos digital leadership strengthened by the completion of the acquisition of the US-based Syntel

9 October 2018

Atos today announced that it has completed the acquisition of Syntel Inc., a leading global provider of integrated information technology and knowledge process services headquartered in Michigan, with \$ 924 million revenue in 2017 of which 89% is in North America, 25% operating margin, and c. 40% of its activities in digital, automation, and robotization. Syntel offers its customers high value-added digital services in several specific verticals such as Banking and Financial Services, Healthcare, Retail and Insurance.

Commenting on the finalization of the deal, Thierry Breton, Atos Chairman and CEO said: "Today marks a new major step in the development of the Group, as we welcome more than 23,000 Syntel employees to Atos. With this transaction, we take a new dimension to accelerate the digital transformation of our customers worldwide, while strongly reinforcing our Business & Platform Solutions activities with new clients in North America and a delivery platform from India with a consistent and competitive size to support our customers in their digitalization journeys. We worked extensively to be ready from day one post-closing and to ensure continued delivery of services to our clients while at the same time leveraging the combined strengths of the two Groups for profitable growth. In that regards, Syntel will operate as a dedicated unit named Atos Syntel within our Business & Platform Solutions Division".

Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, announced on July 22, 2018 and approved by Syntel's shareholders on October 1, 2018, Syntel today becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Atos. The purchase price of \$ 3.4 billion and the repayment of Syntel's outstanding debt for \$ 0.3 billion were financed through debt fully underwritten by BNP Paribas and J.P. Morgan Securities PLC, whose syndication closed largely oversubscribed with a group of 25 banks. As a result of the acquisition, Syntel

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shares will cease trading, and will be delisted from the NASDAQ.

The Group expects to generate compelling and significant synergies both at revenue and cost levels.

Strong portfolio and complementary customer bases between the two companies will generate multiple cross-selling opportunities, leading to expected revenue synergies of c. \$ 250 million by the end of 2021, with c. 20% operating margin, half of them planned by the end of 2020. Atos will also benefit in particular from tangible operational improvement by taking advantage of Syntel's current offshore, automation, and robotization capabilities. Cost synergies are planned to be generated in particular by applying Syntel's best practices on the existing Atos Business & Platform Solutions operating model. The total cost benefits are estimated at \$ 120 million per year on a run rate basis by the end of 2021 with a linear phasing.

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Capgemini reinforces its digital services portfolio in Italy with the acquisition of Doing

9 October 2018

Capgemini announced the acquisition of Doing, a full service digital agency based in Italy. This bolt on acquisition further expands its local digital services capabilities and aligns with the ambition of Capgemini Invent, the Group's global business line, launched recently to help CxOs envision and build what's next for their businesses.

“Doing's multi-disciplinary team, entrepreneurial spirit and impressive client roster are highly complementary to the Group's make up. It is a natural fit with our local team in Italy, enabling us to grow our portfolio of digital services in this region and beyond. I'm delighted to welcome them to the Capgemini team,” comments Olivier Sevilla, member of the Group Executive Board and CEO of Europe at Capgemini.

Founded in 2015 from a merger of Dnsee; Hagakure and Banzai Consulting, Doing is organized into three practices: Technology, Content and Media, and Insights and Experience. The 200+ person team, located mainly in Milan and Rome, supports over 50 clients with the full digital chain from service and business design, to development and maintenance. Top clients include ALD Automotive, L'Oréal and Lavazza.

“At Doing we have combined the key skill sets of data analysis, service design, creativity, content and technology to support clients with their marketing, communication and digital transformation. Joining the Capgemini Group will enable us to scale our services and offer global brands worldwide implementation and support, which is a very exciting prospect for both our clients and our team members,” comments Diego Chiavarelli, CEO, Doing.

The transaction is due to close in the next month.

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Gerber Acquires MCT Digital Integrating Two Histories of Innovation in Automated Cutting & Finishing

2 October 2018

Gerber Technology announced that it has acquired MCT Digital, adding modular laser cutting technology to their existing industrial strength finishing solution hardware and software portfolio. The addition of MCT's high-end large format cutting builds on Gerber's heritage in the sign & graphics and packaging industries, as well as giving Gerber a key technology platform to serve its industrial markets.

MCT and Gerber are both recognized as pioneers providing integrated software and hardware solutions. Their track records of 30 and 50 years respectively have delivered innovative technologies that has transformed the way their customers work. Gerber invented automated cutting in 1968 and the company continues to create the world's most integrated design and production ecosystem of hardware and software in the apparel, home and leisure, and transportation markets.

Gerber also revolutionized the way vinyl was designed and cut in the sign and graphics space with the introduction of OMEGA™ software and GERBER EDGE® thermal transfer printer. Likewise, Steen Mikkelsen, CEO of MCT Digital, was directly responsible for the introduction of today's print-to-cut workflow in the sign & graphics and packaging industries with his development of the i-cut® software. In 2016, MCT launched their current cutting system including proprietary laser cutting technology, winning product of the year at that year's SGIA.

“The product leadership, engineering and technical knowledge of these two companies creates countless opportunities to help our customers improve their productivity, streamline their workflows and improve overall efficiency,” said Scott Schinlever, president and chief operating officer, Automation Solutions for Gerber Technology.

Gerber's financial strength, global service and support network and long-standing customer relationships, coupled with MCT's portfolio of print-to cut software and finishing technology, has the company well positioned to empower their customers in the many markets it serves, and to also position them to fully exploit high-speed digital printing which continues to change many industries.

“We are very excited about combining our technology platform with Gerber's global scale to drive growth,” said Nik Mikkelsen, founder and CTO, MCT Digital. “The passion, focus and culture of our two companies are very well aligned and will maintain the same standard of excellence our customers expect, and our employees' deliver.”

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Gerber Technology Acquires Avametric, Deepens Investment to Provide End-to-End 3D Solution For Fashion Industry

4 October 2018

Gerber Technology announced that it has acquired San Francisco based Avametric. Avametric develops the world's leading cloth simulation technology and enables fashion brands to deliver highly accurate 3D renderings of their products on customizable avatars for e-commerce and augmented reality (AR) applications.

This move will position Gerber as the leader in 3D for the fashion and apparel industry. The acquisition

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follows 12 months of collaboration between the companies after Gerber announced in November 2017 they would be integrating Avametric's fabric simulation engine into their AccuMark® 3D platform.

“Avametric's strengths and capabilities are the perfect complement to our fully integrated software portfolio. They have the industry's best talent pool of scientists, designers and developers for 3D,” said Karsten Newbury, SVP and GM of Software at Gerber Technology. “Our team and many of our customers have already recognized that Avametric has the best fabric simulation engine in the industry and now we are able to connect consumer-facing virtual try-on software with our AccuMark and YuniquePLM® platforms to deliver an end-to-end workflow. This allows our customers to provide their consumers personalized products “on demand”. The deal will also help us to continue to accelerate our 3D developments for our large user base globally – helping them to significantly increase speed and productivity of the creative and development process.”

Interest in 3D is growing with over 60 percent of global fashion and apparel companies planning to adopt 3D technology within the next three years according to a recent survey Gerber conducted with their global customer base. The interest is driven by a need for speed, efficiency and a personalized consumer experience. Technology has become a key competitive differentiator with rapidly fashion trends and consumer expectations.

“Consumers are looking to buy online, but they are still going into brick and mortar stores because they lack confidence in the fit they see virtually,” said Ari Bloom CEO, Avametric. “We believe a transformation is under way as consumers are adopting a virtual try-on experience that accurately portrays the fit they are looking for and our partnership with Gerber is helping us to bridge this confidence gap. Combined with the AccuMark suite and other Gerber products, we can now offer customers a personalized, on-demand shopping experience that significantly compresses the time to market. We are really excited about this opportunity to join an industry leader and make transformative changes.”

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Company News

ANSYS and Granta Design Collaborate To Empower Additive Manufacturing

3 October 2018

Engineers and scientists can now effectively manage and leverage materials information for additive manufacturing (AM) thanks to a new partnership between ANSYS and Granta Design.

Accurate, reliable and traceable materials information is crucial for additive manufacturing. The combination of ANSYS' powerful simulation for metal powder bed AM with Granta's existing GRANTA MI: Materials Gateway for ANSYS Workbench offers an integrated set of workflows for AM data capture, simulation and optimization. That enables users to directly access and use validated materials data stored in their GRANTA MI corporate materials database, while working in ANSYS®Workbench™. Users can quickly apply accurate, traceable input data, saving time and increasing confidence in simulation results. The companies are also working to connect ANSYS® Additive Print™ to GRANTA MI.

"ANSYS is known for the accuracy and robustness of our simulation tools. By partnering with Granta,

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the experts in materials information management, we are helping to assure that ANSYS AM solutions will not only become more efficient, but more accurate and reliable over the years to come," said Brent Stucker, director of additive manufacturing, ANSYS.

"Our collaboration with ANSYS will help organizations working towards AM parts get it right the first time," said David Cebon, managing director and co-founder, Granta Design. "By integrating physical and virtual methods and data relating to AM, we can help to dramatically reduce the time and number of builds required to produce parts with the required properties."

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Cadence Recognized With Four 2018 TSMC Partner of the Year Awards

9 October 2018

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. announced that it has received four TSMC Partner of the Year awards at this year's TSMC Open Innovation Platform® (OIP) Ecosystem Forum. Cadence was presented with awards for the joint development of the 5nm design infrastructure, the cloud-based TSMC OIP Virtual Design Environment (VDE), the Wafer-on-Wafer (WoW) design solution, and its Tensilica® DSP IP.

These awards were given to Cadence based on the following work that has been delivered:

- 5nm design infrastructure: Cadence participated in an early, in-depth collaboration with TSMC on the design infrastructure development of this latest advanced-node technology for next-generation system-on-chip (SoC) designs.
- Cloud-based TSMC OIP VDE: Cadence was one of the first TSMC OIP Cloud Alliance partners and has collaborated with TSMC and mutual customers on successful tapeouts.
- WoW design solution: Cadence collaborated with TSMC on the development of a design solution and delivered a reference flow that includes implementation, electrical analysis and physical verification.
- DSP IP: Cadence collaborated with TSMC on the delivery of Cadence® Tensilica DSP IP, the most widely-used DSP IP in the TSMC portfolio, which mutual customers use to complete successful projects.

"Through our ongoing collaboration with TSMC, we've jointly worked to stay in front of industry trends so that we can enable our mutual customers to consistently deliver successful designs through use of the latest technologies," said Dr. Chin-Chi Teng, senior vice president and general manager of the Digital & Signoff Group at Cadence. "These awards from TSMC exemplify our ability to drive the industry forward with our innovations with 5nm, cloud, WoW, and DSP IP."

"Our ongoing, in-depth collaboration with Cadence provides our customers with confidence that they can use the latest technologies and tools to deliver new innovations in competitive market windows," said Suk Lee, senior director of the Design Infrastructure Marketing Division at TSMC. "We look forward to continuing to partner together on creative new solutions that our mutual customers can use to establish leadership in their respective markets."

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ESI Pursues its Commitment to Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility by Partnering with Gelato Globe

9 October 2018

ESI Group partners with Gelato Globe to amplify its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach.

Present in more than 40 countries, ESI faces the challenge of limiting its environmental footprint around the world. In an effort to support this ambition, ESI is working with Gelato to change its historical practice of printing and storing printed material in Paris before shipping it as needed around the world.

The partnership with Gelato is a further step in ESI's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint, while at the same time streamlining processes to deliver quality printed materials, worldwide. Gelato is a software platform that gives companies access to local high-quality printers around the world. This is achieved through a portal from which customers can centrally manage brand-compliant printable assets which can then be printed and delivered locally, without jeopardizing quality. This significantly reduces shipping distances and delays and can eliminate wastage and storage costs.

As a new signatory of the United Nations Global Compact, ESI undertakes to pursue these actions. In seeking to improve the environmental impact of its offices, ESI is reducing paper usage and the energy consumption related to printing, and also reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to long distance shipments.

Amy de Rouvray, Director Worldwide Marketing at ESI Group, said: "We found Gelato as we were searching for a partner who would be able to address our global printing requirements and our growing need for flexibility and adaptability to local markets. By adopting Gelato's cloud platform, we were able to achieve this and at the same time reduce the shipping distances, delays, and waste that go along with printing in one single location. We no longer stock materials centrally, as Gelato enables our subsidiaries to order and receive the quantity of prints they need, in less time. This local production has, during the first phase of our rollout, reduced delivery distances by 70% (149,000 km or 93,000 miles) and associated CO2 emissions. It also eradicates the need to over-order print materials 'just in case' – greatly cutting waste!"

Beyond the environmental benefits, the partnership also brings agility to ESI's printing processes and ensures a global brand consistency. The improved efficiency helps reinforce the excellence that ESI is committed to offering its customers.

"It's extremely encouraging to see a market leader such as ESI Group celebrate the enormous impact made on resource consumption by simply evolving the way they print. We know print is part of a global company's brand management and customer journey. Our mission is to help companies do it in a smart, cost-effective, and sustainable way. Our common CSR vision was a decisive point for our partnership with ESI. With our solutions, ESI strengthens its environmental commitment with the reduction of its carbon footprint while gaining in flexibility and agility," says Henrik Müller-Hansen, CEO and founder of Gelato.

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Exenta Completes Move to New NYC Headquarters

1 October 2018

Exenta, formerly Simparel, has officially completed their headquarters move to a new location within NYC's garment district. The announcement was made today by Exenta's CEO, Roberto Mangual.

"We are thrilled to be settled in our new space," Mangual stated, "Our new office allows our employees to more effectively communicate with each other due to its spacious and functional setup. As a quickly growing company, this move was necessary for our continued expansion."

The new office is located at 8 West 38th Street. The official move took place earlier this week.

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Paragon Footwear Improves Operational Efficiency with Integrated IoT Solution & Managed Services from Sify & Aeris

8 October 2018

At the IoT India Congress 2018, Aeris announced that it was awarded a contract by Sify Technologies Limited (SIFY), an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions and services leader, for delivery of IoT solutions to their customer, Paragon, India's no. 1 footwear brand.

Paragon aimed to address the issues of unexpected delays due to vehicle breakdown or wrong routes taken, leading to unpleasant incidents. This led to the search for an IoT-based solution to remotely track and monitor Paragon's fleet in real-time in order to prevent vehicle misuse, idle time in the logistics chain and even driver behaviour. Since footwear is a distributor-retailer led business, all of these were critical to ensure that supplies reach the market on time, every time. Paragon decided to use technology to manage their nationwide fleet. After a thorough research of the information technology (IT) vendor landscape and as a first step towards digitizing their supply chain, Paragon decided to implement the Aeris solution across its nationwide fleet, thus making them a single connected entity.

Adoption of IoT is on the rise in India. The number of IoT devices in India is expected to increase significantly from roughly 200 million units in 2016 to 2.7 billion units by 2020, according to a NASSCOM report. By focusing on innovation and generating new opportunities, IoT is bringing retailers, consumers and every object in the value chain into the digital realm.

To address the growing need of data management arising from the accelerated growth projection of IoT in India, Aeris collaborated with Sify Technologies, to develop niche IoT offerings with managed services for the Indian enterprises. At the core of Sify's Digital Transformation model is the cloud iteration of IoT services. Specific to this strategic alliance was a distinctive portfolio of managed Wi-Fi and Internet Service (ISP)-related offerings from Sify with proprietary IoT solutions and managed services from Aeris.

Aeris offers end-to-end IoT and machine-to-machine (M2M) solutions and services for the automobile, insurance, fleet, healthcare, utilities and manufacturing industries. Its comprehensive Aeris® Mobility IoT Platform (AMP) helps enterprises enhance revenue, create new services and business models. Aeris allows enterprises to embark on their digital transformation journey across a portfolio of business solutions.

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Aeris has successfully created a unique IoT ecosystem for enterprises, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), technologists, system integrators and solution providers across many vertical sectors. Aeris empowers organizations to optimize human intervention and attain real-time remote monitoring of machines, equipment, and other assets along with enabling predictive and preventive maintenance of various products and assets within enterprises.

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Purdue University Global Introduces New Cloud Computing Degree Program

8 October 2018

Purdue University Global announced today it has introduced an innovative bachelor of science degree in cloud computing, the first new degree program offered by Purdue Global since its establishment within the Purdue University system in April.

Purdue Global also announced it has partnered with ManTech, a global leader in technology solutions, to offer the cloud computing program to its employees, supporting ManTech's portfolio of mission-focused solutions for national security, intelligence community and federal civilian agencies.

"We're thrilled that ManTech has chosen Purdue Global as its partner in this fascinating and incredibly fast-growing area of study," said Dr. Jeffrey Buck, dean of Purdue Global's School of Business and [IT](#). "Our new cloud computing degree program is an example of how we can help organizations meet the demand for highly trained workers while creating a personalized, high-quality educational experience for students that fits their schedules."

The new Purdue Global cloud computing program, developed with real-world requirements and input from experts at ManTech, will help students master the foundational goals of cloud computing. These include understanding cloud trends, recognizing best practices and evaluating different cloud providers and solutions. It also includes examination of some of the world's most prestigious cloud service providers, including AWS, Azure and Google.

"We see strong synergy between this exciting new cloud computing education program and the CISSP cyber certification training we launched in 2017," said Kevin M. Phillips, ManTech president and CEO. "As our customers pursue cloud-centric transformation and modernization, they can rely on ManTech people with proven expertise in cloud computing and cyber that take digital to the tactical edge, ensuring mission success, peak performance of new virtual systems, and end-to-end cybersecurity."

Like other ManTech-sponsored employee education programs, the new partnership with Purdue Global provides extreme flexibility for participating employees. Course registration is open at least four times per year, and all training in vendor and service provider certifications is online and self-directed. Beginners start with basic concepts in cloud computing, such as cloud infrastructure administration and migrating data to the cloud. More experienced individuals with a deeper background can accelerate into advanced courses.

As with other Purdue Global certificate and degree programs, the cloud computing degree program is built to accommodate busy schedules, enabling adult students to learn at their own pace. In addition, students can receive college credits for their on-the-job cloud experience and previous certifications through its innovative ExcelTrack program, which saves time and helps students complete their degrees faster.

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“This breakthrough initiative leverages ManTech’s proven technology expertise in a college-accredited program that will attract and train top-level talent,” said Jeff Brody, ManTech’s Chief Human Resources Officer. “It enhances our tradition of helping ManTech people leverage their experience, build on it and advance their careers in new ways that help safeguard America.”

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Siemens and Case Western Reserve University Form Academic Partnership to Train Next Generation of Digital Grid Experts

11 October 2018

Siemens and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) have formed a new academic partnership to provide students with the skills needed to operate and advance the nation’s energy grid. Faced with the growth of renewable energy and the threat of outages from extreme weather, the power grid is becoming more reliant than ever on intelligent, digital technologies to smoothly operate the country’s critical infrastructure. This new program will prepare students for this shifting energy landscape by providing them with both new classroom curriculum and hands-on learning via real-world software and hardware tools in a new state-of-the-art Digital Grid Lab. The total value of the partnership is approximately \$1.2 million, including in-kind and monetary gifts.

Siemens is working with long-time partner Case Western Reserve University and its Case School of Engineering’s Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department to develop an experiential learning curriculum that will better educate students to address the needs of a 21st-century power grid. As part of this curriculum, a new Siemens Digital Grid Lab give students hands-on experience with real-world digital grid software and hardware already hard at work at some of the largest utilities across the country. The training they will receive in the living lab includes operating software that helps identify outages within milliseconds so the grid can quickly recover from hurricanes or natural disasters, and managing an advanced distribution management system that can balance the addition of renewable generation like wind and solar power on the grid.

“This exciting academic partnership with Siemens allows us to fulfill one of our most fundamental missions—the training of the next generation of students in an area of national need—and, importantly, it allows us to do so in an experiential, hands-on way utilizing the most current platforms,” said Venkataramanan "Ragu" Balakrishnan, the Charles H. Phipps Dean of the Case School of Engineering. “This approach will undoubtedly uncover new research challenges, not only in the area of the digital grid, but also in many related areas, ranging from energy generation, storage and distribution to economic and public policy. Thus, the partnership will have enormous positive impact in our quest to be the exemplar private urban university with global reach.”

Updated classes will also be offered across several focus areas including the advanced control of energy systems, reliability engineering, and power system analysis, among others.

“In order to train the next-generation energy workforce, we understand that it can’t be done alone. There must be a focus on building training initiatives across stakeholders, which is why we’ve partnered with Case Western Reserve University on this important digital grid program,” said Mike Carlson, President of Siemens Digital Grid, North America. “This partnership makes the university one of the first in the U.S. to institute a digital grid-focused curriculum using both classroom and hands-on learning tools, which will ensure that their students are well prepared for the energy jobs of today and tomorrow.”

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The partnership will equip students with the latest skills needed to land jobs in the evolving energy field, an industry currently facing a skills gap akin to the nationally acknowledged talent gap in the manufacturing sector. A recent U.S. Department of Energy jobs report found that the country does not have enough workers to fill 1.5 million new energy jobs by 2030 and 75 percent of companies have challenges in hiring qualified candidates.

Siemens and Case Western Reserve have a long-standing partnership in the Ohio region, including an over 30-year research collaboration on the advancement of MRI healthcare technology. In 2016, Siemens Healthineers and CWRU announced an exclusive research partnership to further develop a medical imaging method known as “Magnetic Resonance Fingerprinting.” In addition, Siemens has previously provided the university with in-kind grants of product lifecycle management software.

Alexis Abramson, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Case Western Reserve and co-director of the Great Lakes Energy Institute described this latest collaborative effort as “building a living laboratory for grid modernization” because the university also has its own campus electrical distribution and because of partnerships with industry leaders. “It’s a combination that no one else in the world may have, and we have it in Northeast Ohio, on this campus.”

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Surbana Jurong and Autodesk Collaborate to Advance Technology Adoption and Digital Transformation

27 September 2018

Surbana Jurong and Autodesk Asia today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly promote advanced technology adoption, sustainable design excellence and digital skills development to bolster Surbana Jurong’s competitive differentiation and technological leadership.

At the heart of the collaboration is the extension of Building Information Modelling (BIM) beyond architectural design into Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD) for Surbana Jurong’s projects and other transformative areas. These include Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), using artificial intelligence for design, and leveraging BIM and mobile technology on the jobsite to enable cloud-based collaboration and reporting.”

IDD is a key thrust under Singapore’s Construction Industry Transformation Map (ITM). Enabled by BIM, IDD fully integrates processes and stakeholders along the value chain through advanced info-communications technology and smart technologies.

“As a technologically driven leader in urban and infrastructure consulting, Surbana Jurong is committed to driving digital transformation across the built industry’s value chain. This is why we value working with technology leaders like Autodesk who are as dedicated to innovating with their toolsets as we are on our projects,” said Wong Heang Fine, Group Chief Executive Officer, Surbana Jurong.

Together, Surbana Jurong and Autodesk will also explore the development of a Centre of Excellence and robust training and development programme built on Autodesk technology to ensure the former and its extensive partner ecosystem are future ready.

“A growing middle class creates inevitable demand for more housing, transportation, and infrastructure worldwide. Automation presents an opportunity to do things better and is key to ensuring that industry can deliver on these needs while balancing the need to preserve our environment and natural resources,”

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said Scott Herren, chief financial officer, Autodesk. “Surbana Jurong’s leadership in these areas make it a standout force in the market, and we are excited about the next milestone in our continued collaboration.”

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Wipro Selected as Dow Jones Sustainability World Index Member for 9th Consecutive Year

8 October 2018

Wipro Limited today announced that it has been selected as a member of the global Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI) - 2018 for the ninth year in succession.

Launched in 2009, the S&P DJSI (World) is the gold standard for corporate sustainability. Inclusion in DJSI (World) index is based on a rigorous analysis of a company’s performance on 600 data points spread across 21 primary indicators and more than 120 secondary indicators across Economic, Environmental and Social dimensions. A total of 2094 companies were assessed from around the world of which 317 companies have been chosen as the DJSI (World) constituents for the year 2018-19.

Commenting on this recognition, Abidali Z Neemuchwala, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Wipro Limited said, “It is a moment of great pride for us to be recognized by S&P DJSI (World). It is a true testament to Wipro’s uncompromising focus on corporate governance, risk management and sustainability. This recognition encourages us to stay committed to our goal of creating a sustainable ecosystem and have the best-in-class benchmarks for further progress.”

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Events News

2018 BETA CAE Systems Japan Open Meeting

11 October 2018

BETA CAE Systems International AG and its subsidiary in Japan, BETA CAE Systems Japan Inc., announce the 2018 BETA CAE Systems Japan Open Meeting. The event will take place on November 1 & 2, 2018 in JP Tower Nagoya Hall & Conference, Nagoya, Japan.

During the first day of the event, customers will showcase a number of impressive real cases of applying BETA CAE software on various CAE disciplines and industries.

The second day, expert engineers of BETA will walk attendees through the latest developments in new software products and their implementation.

Technical discussions & demonstrations will offer the opportunity to discuss with BETA CAE engineers software features, their application, and future developments. A team of CAE experts from BETA CAE Systems will onhand in person and exchange knowledge, experience and visions.

BETA CAE is excited to announce, Dr. Yuichi Motomura, Assistant professor / Flight doctor, Chiba Hokusoh Hospital, Nippon Medical School, as keynote speaker, who will give his on the collaboration of medical science and engineering.

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Registration will be open until October 26th.

All presentations will take place in Japanese [J], unless indicated to be in English [E] in the agenda.

November 1-2, 2018

JP Tower Nagoya Hall & Conference

Nagoya, Japan

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Cloudify Events & Awards Highlight Technological Vision for Edge Orchestration

8 October 2018

As leading telcos & enterprises globally choose open orchestration for network transformation and Network Functions Virtualization (NFV), Cloudify, AT&T Labs, Proximus, and Datavision Inc. will demonstrate full-lifecycle network management and orchestration of edge, Kubernetes, and NFV telco cloud deployments at leading industry events.

SDN & NFV World Congress | 8-12 October 2018, World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands

Talks:

NetOps - the Key to Declarative Network Automation, Sebastian Grabski, Cloudify

Intel® Network Builders Summit | Monday, October 8 • 16:10 - 16:30

Network automation is not easy. The promise of SDN is fulfilled with better or worse success, requiring in most of the cases "rip & replace" approach. In order to be successful in network automation we need to apply the strategy which will consider existing installed base and new things which are coming now like NFV or will come in a future.

Modeling & Orchestration @ the Edge, Eden Rozin | CPO, Product Manager | AT&T

NETWORK EDGE FORUM (YANGTZE 1&2) | Monday, October 11 • 14:50 - 15:10

Edge computing is becoming the major component in 5G networks. While edge computing provides an u-low-latency solution, it brings with it other challenges. On one hand, edge clouds are small, and their computing resources are scarce. On the other hand, they are required to serve many applications, such as the 5G edge ecosystem, live video streaming and IoT. The edge gives the opportunity for vendors to deploy their own software. However, this needs to be done in an agile manner. With the proliferation of IoT devices and Autonomous cars of different brands, the industry cannot afford countless years and M\$ integration projects. In this session, we will show how we meet these challenges using ONAP, Cloudify, Akraino and other open source projects. We will show a real use case of the full ML-driven life cycle management of applications running on an edge cloud using serverless technology.

NETWORK EDGE PANEL, Shay Naeh, Cloudify

NETWORK EDGE FORUM (YANGTZE 1&2) | Monday, October 11 • 15:10 - 15:40

Network edge is undergoing massive transformation, and most telco digital transformation drives include one or more project related to the network edge. What are best practices, experiences so far, and new solutions that operators and other network users can implement to extract the most value, and reduce the costs of operation in the network edge domain?

Award Nominations: 2018 NETWORK TRANSFORMATION AWARDS - THE SHORTLIST

Best Network Edge

AT&T Labs – Edgility: Serverless Edge

AT&T and Cloudify have developed a revolutionary serverless edge technology for consumers and businesses in the areas of autonomous vehicles, augmented and virtual reality, HTTP Live Streaming, and more. Edgility, with the combination of open source technologies including ONAP, Kubernetes, Akraino, and Cloudify as the master orchestrator, solves all of the problems in edge technology today, from scarce resources and physical space to network connectivity and automated scaling and healing.

With Edgility's innovative combination, 5G edge use cases can be brought to market faster, reduce CAPEX and OPEX, and ensure future proofing due to its open source nature.

Best New Automation & Management

Cloudify - Telco Cloud Transformation

Cloudify was chosen by Proximus, Belgium's largest telecom company, for their Telco Cloud project which is transforming their legacy hardware-based network by making it virtualized, software-driven, and cloud native, thereby making it cheaper, easier, and more flexible. With Cloudify's cloud native NFV management and orchestration platform, Proximus seamlessly connects their OpenStack VIM cloud with their VMware OSS cloud, acting as Domain Orchestrator, general purpose VNF, and NFVO simultaneously.

You can also catch Cloudify network automation demos through our partnership with Datavision Inc. at upcoming MEF18, and Africacom conferences.

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Minerva Group is sponsoring a dedicated Medical Device Track at ACE 2018 Europe

11 October 2018

Minerva Group today announced that the company will be sponsoring a dedicated conference track for medical device companies at the ACE 2018 Europe conference that will be held November 6st and 7th in Hamburg, Germany.

The dedicated track for the medical device industry will be focusing on best practice on how to use PLM to manage and reduce risk, optimize traceability and gain solid design control features.

Minerva Group, the Aras partner with the most successfully completed Aras implementations world-wide, will also showcase the complete industry solution for medical device companies on top of the Aras Innovator PLM platform – the Medical Device PLM platform.

Medical Device PLM offers a complete set of industry-related features for medical device companies which enables them to optimize design control, document management and collaboration while reducing risk.

The premier PLM event in Europe

The conference is the premier event in Europe that connects the most innovative product development, IT and manufacturing teams from the Automotive, Aerospace & Defense, High Tech Electronics, Industrial and Medical Device Manufacturing to shape the future of Product Life Cycle Management.

ACE Europe 2018 brings together industry and technology leaders to connect and collaborate on

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strategies to address the growing complexity in global product development, systems engineering, manufacturing, quality and supply chain.

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

Please visit to register and to view agenda and details: <http://www.cvent.com/events/ace-2018-europe/event-summary-fa777b30ab184a8bb350d3e368b0594f.aspx>

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NEC Hosts C&C User Forum and iEXPO 2018 in Tokyo

9 October 2018

NEC Corporation will host the C&C User Forum and iEXPO 2018, a showcase of the company's latest technologies, on November 8 and 9 at the Tokyo International Forum.

This year's seminars and exhibits will introduce "NEC Safer Cities," which underpin the realization of safe, secure, efficient, and equal cities, and "NEC Value Chain Innovation," which connects people, things, and processes to generate new value. NEC will feature AI, biometrics, security, and network technologies, which are necessary for building safer cities and enabling co-creation with partners and customers.

Highlighting an esteemed lineup of presentations and seminars, Takashi Niino, President and CEO, NEC Corporation will deliver a keynote speech on "Digital Inclusion," and the creation of new social value with partners and customers.

Exhibitions and Demonstrations at iEXPO 2018 that illustrate how "Digital enhances a brighter future for all" include the following:

NEC Safer Cities solutions that enable:

- Smooth airport procedures and efficient transportation
- Critical infrastructure surveillance and disaster countermeasures
- Citizen-friendly digital government
- New urban development approaches
- Advanced and efficient health care

NEC Value Chain Innovation solutions that enhance:

- Manufacturing
- Logistics/mobility
- Retail
- Finance

Platform services that accelerate Digital Transformation, including:

- NEC Biometric Authentication: Bio-IDiom

- NEC's AI portfolio "NEC the WISE"
- Cyber Security
- High-performance computing
- IoT/SDN
- Optical submarine cable systems
- Space utilization services, Hayabusa 2 asteroid probe

For more information on NEC's C&C User Forum and iEXPO 2018, visit:
<https://www.nec.com/en/event/uf-iexpo/index.html>

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Financial News

Dassault Systemes Schedules Third Quarter 2018 Results Webcast and Conference Call for October 24, 2018

8 October 2018

Dassault Systèmes will host a webcast and a conference call on Wednesday, October 24th, 2018, to discuss its operating performance for the third quarter 2018 ended September 30, 2018.

The management of Dassault Systèmes will host the webcast at 8:30am London time - 9:30am Paris time, and will then also host the conference call at 9:00am New York time - 2:00pm London time - 3:00pm Paris time

Both the webcast and the conference call will be available via the Internet by accessing Dassault Systèmes' website at <http://www.3ds.com/investors/>.

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Infosys to Announce Second Quarter Results on October 16, 2018

10 October 2018

Infosys Limited will announce the results for its second quarter ended September 30, 2018 on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 around 4.15 p.m. Indian Standard Time (IST) (6:45 a.m. US ET; 3:45 a.m. PST; 11:45 a.m. London time; 6:45 p.m. Singapore/Hong Kong time). The results will also be available on www.infosys.com.

Following the release, the leadership team will be part of a common television interaction at 4:45 p.m. IST. The participating executives will address questions from the media during this interaction which will be streamed live on the Investor Relations section of Infosys website.

An archive of this event will be uploaded on www.infosys.com after 7:15 p.m. IST on October 16, 2018 (after 9:45 a.m. US ET).

Earnings call (6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. IST; 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ET)

The company will conduct a single 60 minute conference call at 6:30 p.m. IST (9:00 a.m. US ET; 6:00 a.m. PST; 2:00 p.m. London time; 9:00 p.m. Singapore/Hong Kong time) on October 16, 2018 (open to investors / analysts in all regions), where the senior management will discuss the company's performance and answer questions from participants. To participate in the conference call, please dial the numbers provided below 10 – 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of the call. During this time, the operator will provide instructions on how to ask questions. As participation in the call is limited, early registration is encouraged.

This event will be webcast live on the Investor Relations section of Infosys website, following which it will be archived at www.infosys.com. The archive will be available after 9:30 p.m. IST on October 16, 2018 (after 12:00 p.m. US ET on October 16, 2018). In addition, a transcript of the conference call will be available at www.infosys.com.

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Implementation Investments

Airbus and Atos awarded major cyber security contract to protect key EU institutions

9 October 2018

Airbus Defence and Space, through its Airbus CyberSecurity unit and partnering with Atos as coprime entity, have been selected by the Council of the European Union to provide cyber security expertise, products, services and solutions to help protect the IT systems of 17 European institutions, services and agencies.

This framework contract makes the consortium, in which Airbus Defence and Space acts as the lead company, the preferred provider of cyber security solutions for key European institutions for a minimum period of six years. European institutions will be able to implement a co-ordinated and upgraded cyber protection solution for all 17 entities, which include highly automated surveillance, warning detection and response, training, and studies to develop a cyber security roadmap to tackle future cyber threats.

“This is a landmark agreement for us in the area of cyber security. The EU’s decision to award Airbus CyberSecurity such a critical cyber protection contract is a strong endorsement of our capability and expertise. Cyber Security is a growing area of concern for many institutions in the era of digitalisation”, said Dirk Hoke, Chief Executive Officer of Airbus Defence and Space.

Pierre Barnabé, Chief Operating Officer for Big Data & Security at Atos, added: “This is a key step forward in our strategic partnership with Airbus Defence and Space to protect such vital organisations, while enabling Europe to develop a European Cyber Defence strategy.”

The experts from the consortium will provide on-site threat analysis for the European authorities and response schemes to attacks, enabling them to respond effectively and rapidly to these risks. In addition, the consortium will be responsible for raising the awareness of all European institution employees to cyber threats and provide cyber security training courses.

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Meet the Atos experts at the Assises de la Sécurité tradeshow in Monaco from October 10 – 13 on booth #130.

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AMARO Accelerates Product Development with Centric PLM

9 October 2018

Based in São Paulo, Brazil, fast-growing online brand AMARO is the first fashion brand in the country to successfully implement Centric Software's Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution. AMARO already delivers products from design to sale with a lead time above market average, and will now synchronize planning, design and development even more thanks to the new Centric solution.

Founded in 2012, AMARO is a Brazilian online direct-to-consumer fashion brand that sells the latest trends at disruptive prices. Although the business sells primarily through its website and mobile apps, AMARO has fifteen bricks-and-mortar 'Guide Shops' across Brazil where customers can try on sample clothing and order products for delivery from a central inventory. AMARO launches new products weekly, aiming to provide its discerning, digitally native customers with a constant stream of high quality, on-trend apparel.

AMARO is a brand that was born online and integrates sophisticated technology throughout the entire supply chain. Choosing an innovative and forward-looking PLM solution was a natural step in the company's evolution, says Lodovico Brioschi, COO, CFO and Co-Founder of AMARO.

"We are still a startup in many ways and have doubled both revenue and sales volume year over year," he explains. "Our processes began with Excel and Google sheets but were still fragmented and not optimized for our growing business. Each of our teams has different ways of organizing information and working. We arrived at the point where we needed a single source of the truth and one common workflow across the whole company. We needed a PLM solution to consolidate information, make it transparent and create processes that would be consistent for every user."

"We saw a big fit with Centric in terms of company culture and strategy and immediately had a good connection," says Brioschi. "We're both companies that were born in the digital era. Like us, Centric has a tech-savvy, data-driven mindset and everything from the sales process to implementation has been agile, fast and transparent. Centric PLM is cloud-based and focused on the fashion industry, which is very important for us, as AMARO is benefitting from Centric's fashion knowledge and best practices. Our partnership is excellent and has been based on open dialogue and an unbureaucratic approach from the start."

As Brioschi notes, "We are expecting our processes to become more solid, transparent and fast. We hope to reduce costs and timelines, as we will have better information and the ability to negotiate more effectively with suppliers. Speed is a mantra for us at AMARO. We're the fastest fashion brand in Brazil in terms of the time from planning to product launch, which is generally about ten weeks and can be as little as three weeks. Centric PLM is critical to support our strategy of maintaining and even accelerating our time to market."

"We are very happy to announce that AMARO has found their perfect fit with Centric PLM," says Chris Groves, President and CEO of Centric Software. "Centric and AMARO have a similar mindset, driven by digital innovation and disruptive thinking. We're excited about supporting the latest phase of

AMARO's evolution and seeing Centric PLM at work in the environment of super-fast fashion.”

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Product News

COMSOL Releases Version 5.4 and Introduces Two New Products

3 October 2018

COMSOL today announces the latest version of COMSOL Multiphysics Version 5.4, which in addition to two new products provides performance improvements and additional modeling tools.

New COMSOL Compiler™

COMSOL Compiler allows you to create standalone COMSOL Multiphysics applications. Compiled applications are bundled with COMSOL Runtime™ – no COMSOL Multiphysics or COMSOL Server™ license required to run. You can distribute such applications with no further license fees.

“Specialists can create simulation applications with the Application Builder that we released a few years ago. This has provided a new way for teams of engineers and scientists to bring the use of simulation to non-specialists. A little later we released COMSOL Server which is used to deploy and administrate applications via a web interface. With COMSOL Compiler we are taking things to the next level by letting specialists compile an application into a single executable file for unlimited use and distribution. This is a level of freedom that the industry has not seen before”, said Svante Littmarck, President and CEO, COMSOL.

New Composite Materials Module

“The Composite Materials Module delivers modeling tools for users working with layered materials”, said Pawan Soami, Technical Product Manager at COMSOL. “Composite laminated structures could have more than a hundred layers and setting up such a simulation is cumbersome without dedicated tools. We now offer such tools”, continues Soami.

By combining the Composite Materials Module with new functionality for layered shells available in the Heat Transfer Module and the AC/DC Module, users can perform multiphysics analysis such as Joule heating with thermal expansion..

“The ability to couple structural mechanics analysis in layered shells with heat transfer and electromagnetics, provides users with unique multiphysics modeling capabilities”, says Nicolas Huc, Technical Product Manager at COMSOL. An important application of multiphysics analysis in laminated materials is managing the impact of lightning strikes on wings and wind turbine blades within aerospace and wind power industries.

Enhancements to COMSOL Multiphysics and add-on products

COMSOL Multiphysics version 5.4 comes with numerous productivity improvements such as the ability to use multiple parameter sets in a model, including parametric sweeping over multiple parameter sets. Furthermore, users can now organize the Model Builder nodes into groups and assign custom coloring schemes to geometry models.

Among the various performance improvements is the updated memory allocation scheme that gives

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several times faster computations in the Windows® 7 and 10 operating systems for computers with more than 8 processor cores.

The AC/DC Module features a new part library with fully parametric and ready-to-use coils and magnetic cores. The CFD Module comes with large eddy simulations (LES) and significantly updated modeling tools for multiphase flow.

Highlights in version 5.4

COMSOL Compiler: For creating standalone executable applications.

Composite Materials Module: For modeling layered materials.

COMSOL Multiphysics: Multiple parameter nodes in the Model Builder. Group Model Builder nodes into folders. Coloring of physics and geometry selections. Several times faster solution time in the Windows® 7 and 10 operating systems for computers with more than 8 processor cores.

Multiphysics: Heat transfer, electric currents, and Joule heating in thin layered structures.

Electromagnetics: Fully parametric and ready-to-use parts for coils and magnetic cores. Structural-thermal-optical-performance (STOP) analysis for ray optics.

Structural: Shock response spectrum analysis. Material activation for additive manufacturing.

Acoustics: Acoustic ports. Nonlinear acoustics Westervelt model.

Fluid flow: Large eddy simulation (LES). Fluid-structure interaction (FSI) for multiphase flow and multibody dynamics.

Heat transfer: Heat radiation with diffuse-specular reflections and semi-transparent surfaces. Light-diffusion equation.

Chemical: Lumped models for batteries. Updated thermodynamics interface.

Optimization: New topology optimization tool.

Availability

COMSOL Multiphysics, COMSOL Server, and COMSOL Compiler software products are supported on the following operating systems: Windows®, Linux®, and macOS. The Application Builder tool is supported in the Windows® operating system.

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Gerber Launches FashionTech Platform 1.0, Enabling Purchase-Activated Fashion Through Collaboration with OnPoint Manufacturing

9 October 2018

The personalization economy is creating challenges for fashion and apparel brands trying to keep pace with consumer expectations and needs. To address this need, Gerber Technology is launching FashionTech Platform 1.0, which includes software, equipment and consulting to set-up a purchase-activated fashion model with a digitally integrated e-commerce and on-demand design to print, cut and sew micro-factory operation. The first FashionTech Platform 1.0 installation will be implemented in partnership with OnPoint Manufacturing in Florence, Alabama and PAAT, Inc. in Nashville,

Tennessee.

“Our eco-system, the expertise of our people and recent advances in our technology are enabling us to deliver value to our customers, helping them to achieve the countless benefits of a demand generated micro-factory,” said Karsten Newbury, SVP and GM of Software at Gerber, “To effectively achieve this concept you need a strong knowledge base and products that can digitally integrate the design through production workflow with speed and efficiency.”

FashionTech Platform 1.0 eliminates costly inventory and re-defines just-in-time manufacturing, so production adjusts as demands fluctuate – allowing products to be produced more efficiently and sold at full retail price without heavy discounting. OnPoint Manufacturing has expertise in digitizing processes and on-demand work flows. Their current mass customization manufacturing process supports millions of unique SKUs.

“We have been working with Gerber for several years now,” said J. Kirby Best, Chairman of OnPoint Manufacturing and PAAT. “We are continually refining our approach to mass customization and we believe adding Gerber’s full suite of software and automated cutting systems will help us to dramatically improve our speed and efficiency.”

The FashionTech Platform 1.0 includes an e-commerce virtual try-on application developed by Avametric, and the complete set of Gerber’s Digital Solutions tools including the newest software releases of YuniquePLM®, a cloud-based product lifecycle management software, and AccuMark®, the industry-leading pattern design, grading, marker making and production planning software as well as AccuMark 3D. Data will be transmitted directly to the micro-factory environment where the optimized marker files from AccuMark will drive a digital printer to print and continuously feed finished textiles to a GERBERcutter® Z1 with CountourVision™. A combination of robotic and lean loop sewing operations will be deployed depending upon apparel finishing requirements.

The FashionTech Platform 1.0 announcement was made to industry leaders at Gerber’s 20th annual ideation tech conference. Transformation was the core topic as Gerber highlighted key trends, like the need to embrace digitalization in the fashion supply chain to enable speed and personalization.

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Gerber Technology Partners with ExactFlat, Expands Power of 3D to AccuMark® Users in Furniture, Transportation Interiors and Other Key Markets

10 October 2018

Companies striving to achieve increased efficiency, decreased cost and speed to market are looking for technology that digitizes workflows for greater productivity. “Digitalization is important to all industries we serve,” said Mary McFadden, executive director CAD product management for Gerber Technology. “We have partnered with ExactFlat to continue advancement in 3D workflows for the furniture, transportation and other technical textiles.”

The integration of 3D to 2D digital flattening tools allows companies to quickly transition from design concept to production. With the use of ExactFlat, 3D files are transferred to production patterns which are ready for nesting and cutting, making the entire process very seamless and easy.

“We’re extremely excited to be working more closely with the team at Gerber,” stated Mark Jewell,

founder and CTO at ExactFlat. “ExactFlat technology has been the leading 3D to 2D flattening solution for more than a decade. The tools are fast, simple-to-use and can produce perfect 2D pattern from any 3D CAD file in a matter of minutes. And now that the solution will be tightly integrated with AccuMark and GERBERcutters, we make adoption of the technology even easier.”

The ExactFlat 3D to 2D Flattening add-on is available now via the Gerber Sales channels.

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HPE simplifies hybrid cloud data protection with new solutions for HPE Nimble Storage and HPE 3PAR

1 October 2018

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) today announced new hybrid cloud data protection and copy data management solutions for its intelligent storage portfolio. These new capabilities allow customers to increase operational efficiency by up to 95%, enable faster back up to the cloud, and reduce cloud storage costs by up to 20x.

- Next generation of HPE StoreOnce backup appliance portfolio increases business continuity with flash speed data protection in the data center and cost-efficient archive and disaster recovery in the cloud
- HPE Recovery Manager Central (RMC) 6.0 simplifies data protection and copy data management for HPE Nimble Storage
- HPE StoreOnce with Commvault software integration reduces the storage footprint and network bandwidth requirements to the cloud
- HPE GreenLake Backup is enhanced with next-generation HPE StoreOnce and Commvault software integration, offering consumption-based IT models and reducing costs by up to 30%[3](#)

As the engine of digital transformation, data is an organization’s most valuable currency. The ability to gain actionable insights and unlock the economic value of data is critical for driving business outcomes. However, managing and protecting that data is increasingly challenging. Exploding data growth, demanding service level agreement (SLA) requirements, and an evolving threat landscape are putting pressure on IT to embrace an intelligent storage approach to protecting applications across their private and public cloud estate.

“Businesses need a built-for-cloud approach to data protection and copy data management on premises and in the cloud for simple and efficient data mobility,” said Patrick Osborne, Vice President of Secondary Storage and Big Data product management, HPE. “The solutions and services announced today enable HPE 3PAR and HPE Nimble Storage customers to effortlessly orchestrate intelligent, multi-tiered data protection from on premises arrays to the public cloud – driven by policy and business need.”

Next-Generation HPE StoreOnce Optimizes Cloud Investment

An increasing number of organizations are now deploying a cloud-first strategy, mandating that their IT functions are built for cloud. HPE StoreOnce systems deliver simple, cost-efficient and secure backup to the cloud. As a result, customers can leverage the benefits of the cloud for long-term retention of backup

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data to help with regulatory or governance compliance or disaster recovery, while continuing to use on-premises performance-optimized StoreOnce systems for short-term operational recovery, enabling fast restore.

“The significant performance, capacity and manageability improvements offered by the next generation HPE StoreOnce lets us and our customers protect more data, faster, and for less,” said Sebastian Koehler, Solution Architect, GODYO Enterprise Computing AG. “The new HPE StoreOnce systems enable simpler and more rapid provisioning of new data protection storage, while the introduction of the larger HPE StoreOnce VSA along with the new flexible License Server is game changing for the quick deployment and re-deployment of HPE StoreOnce as a virtual appliance. All of this coupled with the proven inbuilt performance and efficiency of HPE StoreOnce Catalyst and replication provides customers with the capabilities they need out of the box for fast, reliable operational recovery.”

Next-generation HPE StoreOnce with Cloud Bank Storage dramatically improves the performance and agility of hybrid cloud data protection for environments including Amazon S3 and Microsoft Azure by copying only unique data to the cloud, and stores encrypted, self-describing backup data for simple cloud disaster recovery. The next generation HPE StoreOnce platform reduces operational time by as much as 95%⁴ with a unified view of multiple HPE StoreOnce systems - both on premises and in the cloud.

“Cloud is a strategic priority in every organization today, and data protection is a popular use case,” said Tad Brockway, General Manager, Azure Storage at Microsoft Corp. “Next generation HPE StoreOnce with Cloud Bank Storage delivers simple, efficient and secure backup to the cloud. With the combination of Microsoft Azure and HPE StoreOnce, enterprises are able to move data faster and reduce downtime risk.”

RMC 6.0 for HPE Nimble Storage Delivers Cloud Agility at Flash Speed

Businesses are looking to leverage their backup data for more than just recovery. They are evolving their data protection process from being a reactive insurance policy to a proactive, value-added service for their organization.

HPE RMC delivers a simpler, centralized copy data management solution currently available for HPE 3PAR and now extended to HPE Nimble Storage. Using RMC 6.0 for direct backup from HPE storage arrays to HPE StoreOnce now delivers approximately 23X⁵ faster backup and about 15X faster recovery with less cost and complexity than competing solutions.

“Our research shows that fragmented, inefficient secondary data copy sprawl is putting pressure on costs and intensifying risk for many organizations,” said Christophe Bertrand, senior data protection analyst, Enterprise Strategy Group. “HPE storage-integrated copy data management with RMC 6.0 helps solve the challenges of copy data proliferation and manual data provisioning with fast, automated and zero-impact data access for recovery, archive, analytics and application development.”

Commvault Integration Extends the HPE StoreOnce Software Partner Ecosystem

New Commvault Complete™ Backup & Recovery software integration with HPE StoreOnce provides seamless and efficient backup to the cloud. Commvault customers can now benefit from up to 20x⁷ lower cloud storage costs, faster backups, and approximately 95%⁸ less backup storage and network traffic.

“This announcement further strengthens the partnership between Commvault and HPE, providing our mutual customers with a simple, efficient, fast and secure hybrid cloud data protection solution,” said

Owen Taraniuk, Head of Worldwide Partnerships and Market Development at Commvault. “The combination of Commvault software and the next generation HPE StoreOnce platform seamlessly extends the datacenter to the cloud, enabling organizations to move data where it needs to be.”

Optimized Cloud Economics

HPE customers can now gain from applying cloud economics to the security and control of their on-premises infrastructure with a consumption-based IT billing model that aligns and grows with business needs. The consumption-based IT models and HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity planning strategies with HPE GreenLake Backup will be enhanced with the next-generation HPE StoreOnce and the new Commvault integration, delivering 30% savings with HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity⁹. The complete backup solution is designed, operated and implemented by HPE Pointnext.

Additionally, advisory and professional services for Microsoft Azure Hybrid Cloud offered by HPE Pointnext help customers define and implement a hybrid IT backup strategy that delivers end-to-end support for the customer environment from primary storage to HPE StoreOnce and Microsoft Azure.

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IBM Food Trust Expands Blockchain Network to Foster a Safer, More Transparent and Efficient Global Food System

8 October 2018

IBM today announced growing adoption of its food supply chain network, IBM Food Trust. The blockchain-based cloud network offers participating retailers, suppliers, growers and food industry providers with data from across the food ecosystem to enable greater traceability, transparency and efficiency.

The network is now generally available after 18 months in testing, during which millions of individual food products have been tracked by retailers and suppliers.

The ecosystem of network participants continues to grow, and today, leading global retailer Carrefour announced they will use the IBM Food Trust blockchain network to strengthen their food excellence actions. As one of the world's leading retailers with more than 12,000 stores in 33 countries, Carrefour stores will initially use the solution to highlight consumers' confidence in a number of Carrefour-branded products. As a commitment of the retailer's Act for Food program, the solution is expected to expand to all Carrefour brands worldwide by 2022.

"Being a founding member of the IBM Food Trust platform is a great opportunity for Carrefour to accelerate and widen the integration of blockchain technology to our products in order to provide our clients with safe and undoubted traceability," said Laurent Vallée, general secretary of Carrefour. "This is a decisive step in the roll-out of Act for Food, our global program of concrete initiatives in favor of the food transition."

Using blockchain for trusted transactions, food can be quickly traced back to its source in as little as a few seconds instead of days or weeks. Unlike traditional databases, the attributes of blockchain and the ability to permission data, enables network members to gain a new level of trusted information. Transactions are endorsed by multiple parties, leading to an immutable single version of the truth.

"The currency of trust today is transparency and achieving it in the area of food safety happens when

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responsibility is shared," Bridget van Kralingen, senior vice president, IBM Global Industries, Clients, Platforms and Blockchain. "That collaborative approach is how the members of IBM Food Trust have shown blockchain can strengthen transparency and drive meaningful enhancements to food traceability. Ultimately that provides business benefits for participants and a better and safer product for consumers."

A Growing Ecosystem

The members of IBM Food Trust have helped build a powerful global business solution that is interoperable and built on open standards. This is designed to enable organizations in the food industry to run their businesses more effectively and provide safer food at lower costs.

In addition to Carrefour, organizations joining IBM Food Trust include:

- Leading cooperative Topco Associates, LLC, representing 49 members, reaching over 15,000 stores and 65 million weekly customers;
- Retailer-owned cooperative Wakefern, representing 50 member companies and 349 stores;
- Suppliers including BeefChain, Dennick Fruit Source, Scoular and Smithfield.

"Blockchain holds the potential to help us be more transparent and transform how the food industry works by speeding up investigations into contaminated food, authenticating the origin of food, and providing insights about the conditions and pathway the food traveled to identify opportunities to maximize shelf life and reduce losses due to spoilage," said Ed Treacy, Vice President of Supply Chain Efficiencies at the Produce Marketing Association.

These newest participants join a movement that is accelerating among retailers and suppliers. For example, Walmart, an early proponent of blockchain technology, [recently announced](#) that it will begin requiring its leafy green suppliers to capture digital, end-to-end traceability event information using IBM Food Trust.

Beyond the goal of making food safer, the IBM Food Trust network and accompanying solutions have expanded to focus on optimizing the food supply. This includes generating insights on product freshness, reducing waste and making the supply chain more collaborative and transparent.

IBM is working with services and technology providers to contribute important supply chain, provenance, testing and sensor data to the blockchain ecosystem. Through a library of IBM Food Trust APIs, hardware, software and technology companies can write transaction data directly onto the blockchain network to provide valuable insights.

- 3M is working with IBM to enable its food safety diagnostic equipment to communicate with the blockchain network, should a food manufacturer choose to enable this capability.
- Centricity, a grower-owned company, makes it easy to collect, protect and share agronomic and compliance data between systems and trading partners, regardless of formats.
- Trellis Framework is an open-source food industry standard and API service that enables real-time connections between companies and machines with full automation that scales.
- Emerson is leveraging its advanced cold chain technology to provide temperature-related information on in-transit, refrigerated cargo to improve shelf life estimates and food freshness, enabling more actionable data for network members.

"The power of IBM Food Trust is in bringing together not only retailers and suppliers but also the rest of the ecosystem touching our food supply," said Natalie Dyenson, vice president, Food Safety & Quality,

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Dole. "For example, Dole is working with Centricity, a grower-owned partner, to connect audit data to the blockchain by leveraging the Trellis framework as a standard for the produce industry, using existing formats and processes. By simplifying on-farm and front-office reporting and putting data on the blockchain, IBM Food Trust has helped Dole unlock the value of compliance data across our suppliers and partners in a cost-effective way."

Governance for Shared a Network

IBM Food Trust uses a decentralized model to allow multiple participating members of the food supply chain – from growers to suppliers to retailers – to share food origin details, processing data and shipping information on a permissioned blockchain network. Each node on the blockchain is controlled by a separate entity, and all data on the blockchain is encrypted. The decentralized features of the network enable all parties to work together to ensure the data is trusted.

As one of the largest and most active enterprise blockchain networks in production to date, IBM Food Trust members pioneered a comprehensive governance model for the network to help ensure that the rights and information of all participants will be managed and protected appropriately. The governance model ensures every member abides by the same set of rules. Organizations that upload data continue to own the data, and the data owner is the only one that can provide permission for data to be seen or shared. Important blockchain network management considerations have been addressed, including data entry, membership, interoperability and security and hardware requirements, while providing a consistent way to standardize data.

General Availability

Available today globally, IBM Food Trust runs on the IBM Cloud and features enterprise-class security, reliability and scalability. The foundation of the technology relies on Hyperledger Fabric, an open source blockchain framework hosted by the Linux Foundation. In addition, the network includes compatibility with the GS1 standard used by much of the food industry to ensure interoperability for traceability systems.

Participants can select from three IBM Food Trust software-as-a-service modules with pricing that is scaled for small, medium and global enterprises, beginning at \$100 USD per month. Suppliers can contribute data to the network at no cost.

Trace – The trace module allows members of a food ecosystem to more securely trace products in seconds to help mitigate cross-contamination, and reduce spread of food-borne illness and unnecessary waste – a process that often takes weeks using other methods.

Certifications – The certifications module helps verify the provenance of digitized certificates, such as organic or fair trade. It also enables participants across the ecosystem to easily load, manage and share food certifications digitally, speeding up certificate management by up to 30 percent.

Data entry and access – The data entry and access module allows members to securely upload, access and manage data on the blockchain.

IBM Food Trust is available as a subscription service for members of the food ecosystem to join.

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SecturaSoft Announces SecturaQUOTE LT

9 October 2018

SecturaSOFT LLC announces the release of its newest offering: SecturaQUOTE LT™. Developed especially for the metal fabrication industry, SecturaQUOTE LT generates winning and profitable quotes by quantifying and incorporating run-time, material and labor costs and other variables into quotes. For a limited time SecturaQUOTE LT is being offered with a fifteen day free trial. Special pricing of \$99 per user, per month is available to those wishing to purchase the software.

SecturaQUOTE LT Benefits

- Guides sales staff to create consistent and more accurate estimates or quotes
- Estimates and quotes can be converted into orders/work orders for financial and production team members to track
- Scalable to grow with changing customer requirements
- Web-based application accessible from anywhere

SecturaSOFT Chief Operating Officer, Brad Stropes comments, “SecturaQUOTE was developed for steel fabricators, job shops, machine shops and service centers looking to generate quotes more quickly and accurately. We’re confident that once fabricators and manufacturers experience its ease of use and capabilities they will want to put SecturaQuote into the hands of their entire quoting and sales teams.”

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ZeroStack Partners With Hitachi Sunway to Deliver Turnkey Cloud Solution in ASEAN Markets

7 October 2018

ZeroStack today announced Hitachi Sunway is bundling the ZeroStack Intelligent Cloud platform on any x86 servers to offer a turnkey, secure private cloud solution for demanding customers in ASEAN markets.

Hitachi Sunway provides consulting and hosted infrastructure for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions; managing and supporting IT infrastructures; and cloud-enabling IT platforms – including the cyber security elements – in its fully-compliant and secured data centers.

“Many customers in our region want secure managed web services for markets like finance and healthcare,” said Cheah Kok Hoong, Group CEO / Director at Hitachi Sunway. “The ZeroStack platform is engineered for security, reliability and redundancy, so it’s a perfect foundation for our secure private cloud offerings.”

ZeroStack’s Intelligent Private Cloud provides advanced analytics with simplified management to deliver a complete and highly resilient solution for compliance- and security-conscious enterprises. ZeroStack’s platform enhances margins for customers like Hitachi Sunway because it is extremely easy to deploy, configure, and manage.

“We understand that many enterprises are very security-conscious when selecting hosted service platforms, even to the point where they won’t share hardware,” said Joel Norton, managing director

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ZeroStack Asia. “We make it easy and very cost-effective for MSPs to roll out secure private cloud services by leveraging AI and machine learning to automate many operational tasks and deliver ‘click and go’ deployment capabilities.”

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