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CIMdata News

Accenture’s Prescription for Driving Healthcare Disruptions (CIMdata Commentary)
29 January 2019

Key takeaways:

- Healthcare costs in the United States are growing faster than GDP, a trend that demands systemic change.

- Technologies and trends in the consumer market, like smart, connected products, show great promise to deliver better healthcare outcomes at lower cost.

- Strong product lifecycle management (PLM) processes and enabling solutions are essential to develop and manufacture smart, connected products and new drug innovations.

- Accenture life sciences capabilities and enabling technologies are helping leading life sciences companies meet their growth and innovation objectives.

Introduction

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), national healthcare spending is projected to grow at an average of 5.5% per year for 2017-2026.\(^1\) This is lower than the 7.3% growth rate prior to the recession (1990-2007), but higher than the average rate since, 4.2%. More importantly, U.S. healthcare costs are rising faster than GDP, which will make it more difficult to pay for these increases. Unfortunately, this high growth has not resulted in improved patient outcomes. The aging U.S. population is also a contributing factor. Older Americans consume healthcare at a much higher rate, and a significantly higher cost, at the end of their lives.

To meet these challenges, the healthcare industry is being disrupted from top to bottom. The same trends influencing the consumer and business market are having an impact on the present and future of healthcare. Social, mobile, analytics, cloud, and the IoT are revolutionizing product markets, seemingly making just about everything we consume smart and connected. Those same capabilities are increasingly being applied to healthcare. Just as consumerization of IT is hitting the enterprise IT organization, the consumerization of healthcare shows great promise to make the user experience—in this case the users are healthcare consumers—more satisfying and successful.

Technology is one way to make this happen. Advances in genetic sequencing and therapies are making individualized treatments practical. While these treatments may be expensive, some initial positive results suggest their efficacy can be worth it. Scanning technologies allow for non-invasive study of the body and the creation of personalized treatments, surgeries, and implants using additive manufacturing. Smart, connected products are everywhere in the consumer market and now help monitor patients inside and out. Wearable technologies combine biometric tracking with GPS and other environmental data to help enhance performance. People can be monitored from the inside by ingesting digital pills to track prescription consumption and be fitted with tooth-based monitors to track what patients eat.

Smart, connected products generate large volumes of data and are raising privacy and security concerns in the public sphere, concerns that multiply with close tracking of personal health data. Any new processes or applications must comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy and security regulations. This can make things complex, as innovations often seek to reduce inefficiencies caused by data and process silos. Individual applications must protect their data while also increasing the ways that they might share it. Some say that data is the new oil, and data lubricates the wheels of machine learning that can help deliver new and improved outcomes. The enterprise software market has witnessed the increasing platformization of information technology, a trend where companies rely on development platforms to better orchestrate different layers of their business. This systemic approach can offer significant benefits in healthcare where islands of information must be systematically linked.

**Taking a Systemic Approach**

The history of innovation and technology development is littered with many cases of doing things because we can, not because we should. There are some good examples from the wearables market. Google Glass came to market prematurely and faded away, partly because of both a poor user experience and privacy issues. The ubiquitous smartphone has put fitness and health applications in our pockets. But just because we can make something smart and connected, do consumers really want someone monitoring their every bodily function? These are point solutions that may be helpful at times but may not contribute to broad-based advancement. To help reduce costs and improve outcomes any new technologies must be considered in light of how they will be used and how they will impact the whole system of healthcare.

The healthcare system spans the lifecycle of innovations, from science to delivery as part of a health and wellness system. The U.S. system has the added complication of how those outcomes are achieved and who is paying. Figure 1 depicts a systemic view of one healthcare future. New products, like drugs, diagnostic tests and instruments, and other innovations must be weighed against how they will deliver better results. Do they work better for patients? Are they worth it to the hospital, insurer, or other paying entity? These innovations also need to contribute to next-generation health and wellness platforms that

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1 https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/security/laws-regulations/index.html
can leverage these new technologies and the data they provide to help make better decisions for the system as a whole.

![Figure 1 — A Systemic View of a Healthcare Future](image)

**Accenture Life Sciences**

Accenture (NYSE: ACN) is one of the world’s largest strategic consulting and systems integration organizations, with revenues of US$34.9 billion for fiscal 2017. Its 449,000 employees work in more than 200 cities in 53 countries. Over the last several years the company has seen both strong organic growth and market expansion through a series of acquisitions. One significant growth engine is Accenture’s Industry X.0 unit which focuses on the digital reinvention of industry, applying digital technologies to help companies in a range of industries transform their core operations. Responding to today’s interest in digitalization and digital transformation at product companies requires a strong PLM foundation.

Accenture has a 25+ year history in the PLM space, partnering with many leading PLM solution providers, and is bringing this experience, and more, to bear in the life sciences industry in an agile way. Their broad portfolio of capabilities is highlighted in Figure 2.

![Figure 2 — Accenture's Products Industry X.0 Life Sciences Capabilities](image)

In the “develop & engineer” space, Accenture offers services to enhance their client’s abilities to design
and develop smart, connected products, including software and product engineering, and to transform their PLM strategies to seamlessly include application lifecycle management (ALM) processes and tools. Their support continues into manufacturing, offering manufacturing operations management services focusing on manufacturing process excellence by leveraging key manufacturing technologies and solutions, such as manufacturing execution systems (MES). Their manufacturing services also include the application of advanced technology, like wearables and augmented reality, and leveraging analytics to optimize asset utilization. In addition, product quality is an important focus, bringing support for product change control, production planning and scheduling, and reliability and quality management, with a heavy emphasis on continuous improvement. Finally, Accenture delivers these innovative solutions by using new ways of working. They leverage tools and assets to drive design thinking, data analytics, and agile methods which allows for better business outcomes.

Product development and manufacturing organizations rely on a heterogeneous set of tools and technologies. To best meet companies where they are, Accenture has built an impressive set of PLM alliance partners including Aras, Dassault Systèmes, Oracle, PTC, SAP, and Siemens PLM Software. While life sciences companies may use the traditional design, analysis, and collaboration tools offered by the PLM solution providers, their needs also include support for the laboratory and process manufacturing. Specifically, new drug innovations require an integrated “lab to launch” ecosystem including laboratory information management (LIMS), formulation and recipe development, specification management, regulatory lifecycle management and change control technologies. Other Accenture partners include Core Infomatics, Agilent Technologies, GenoLogics, Sapio Sciences, GenoLogics, LabWare, IDBS, and many others. According to Mr. Tom Hartmann, Accenture Managing Director, IX.0 Life Sciences: “Having a holistic vision of product data flow is critical to achieving improved time-to-market, product quality and patient outcomes.”

Customers are already seeing the benefits. A leading global medical device company faced issues typical of many industrial firms. They did not lack PLM strategies and enabling solutions. Having grown through acquisition they had six different systems with disparate processes and disconnected data. The PLM solutions were highly customized and some of the software and hardware was no longer supported by the respective providers. Accenture worked with company leaders to develop a PLM transformation framework supported by a global roadmap to get to one global PLM solution in three releases spanning two years. The Program Management Office, created and staffed by Accenture, drove the implementation, including functional design, data migration, and application development and testing. The flexible data model created for the customer will help streamline assimilating future acquisitions. This new platform now supports over 20,000 global users. The customer estimates their total cost of ownership will decrease by 50% over the next ten years. In addition, they are saving $27 million per year in process efficiency savings.

The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry is also ripe for disruption. A leading pharmaceutical company was faced with drug patent expirations and competition from generic drugs, a common problem in this global industry. Their fragmented and manual processes, data, and systems were not up to the challenges they faced in both product development and manufacturing and an increasingly demanding regulatory environment. Accenture is helping the company transform their PLM processes from ideation through to drug retirement. Their new solution, built using SAP S/4HANA, will span R&D, regulatory, quality, manufacturing, product change execution, and supply chain planning and logistics. While the implementation is on-going, users can already see the benefits of full traceability across the lifecycle, integrating product specifications and drug formulation/recipe changes, and putting “where used,” “where tested,” and “where sourced” information a few clicks away. While this capability
may be well-known to discrete manufacturers savvy to PLM processes and PLM-enabling cross-functional solutions, it can be a revelation in industries like pharma, where document-centric processes and functional siloes make such things difficult. This is a good example of how life sciences customers can benefit from Accenture’s strong combination of strategic consulting and practical, boots on the ground, skills in a range of PLM processes and enabling solutions.

**Conclusion**

Healthcare is undergoing dramatic systemic change, in part influenced by the technologies and trends affecting society at large. Smart, connected products working as part of socially-aware systems are a big part of those changes. Companies developing such products need strong, well developed PLM strategies and enabling solutions that span mechanical, electrical/electronic, and software development requirements that can meet the strict manufacturing needs in these key markets. In addition, getting new and existing medical innovations and drugs to market faster is essential to growth. PLM processes and enabling solutions are helping life sciences companies streamline product commercialization and manufacturing, ensuring compliance with a wide range of global standards and regulations, potentially enhancing product safety for millions of patients. Accenture, one of the world’s leading strategic consulting firms, has a deep understanding of these systemic changes, and Accenture Life Sciences can bring that knowledge to bear alongside their traditional strengths in PLM and manufacturing. The examples included in this Commentary represent just two of their global successes but are typical of the issues faced by global life sciences firms. Accenture Life Sciences’ ability to provide expert strategic guidance in the boardroom and then elaborate and extend those strategies across the value chain gives their clients and Accenture a significant competitive advantage.

**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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crafting a single conference program that will appeal to the constituencies of both the PLM Road Map and PDT events,” added Mr. Bilello.

“With the successful co-location of PDT Europe and PLM Road Map over the past years we decided to team up even closer in 2019, now featuring PDT and PLM Road Map as a single 2-day integrated event. We believe this brings optimal value to all including participants and sponsors,” stated Mr. Håkan Kårdén, Director of Marketing, Eurostep Group.

In addition to the event in North America, CIMdata and Eurostep will host a similar event in Paris, France during November 2019.

For more information about the events please visit the CIMdata website at: https://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-conferences/plm-road-map-2019-pdt-2019

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

CIMdata works with both industrial organizations and providers of technologies and services seeking competitive advantage in the global economy. In addition to consulting, CIMdata conducts research, provides PLM-focused subscription services, and produces several commercial publications. The company also provides industry education through PLM certificate programs, seminars, and conferences worldwide. CIMdata serves clients around the world from offices in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. To learn more about CIMdata's services, visit our website at www.CIMdata.com, follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/CIMdataPLMNews, or contact CIMdata at: 3909 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, USA, Tel: +1 734.668.9922. Fax: +1 734.668.1957; or at Oogststraat 20, 6004 CV Weert, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 (0) 495.533.666.

About Eurostep Group
Eurostep delivers software and services for product lifecycle management with a particular focus on the exchange and sharing of data within and between enterprises. Services range from pre-studies to the implementation and support of systems. Eurostep has subsidiaries in Sweden, the UK, France, Finland, Germany, and the US, and has blue-chip customers in a variety of industries including automotive, aerospace, defense, energy, high tech, and AEC. For more information www.eurostep.com and www.pdteurope.com

CIMdata and SEMPRO Announce Strategic Alliance
29 January 2019

CIMdata, Inc., the leading global PLM strategic management consulting and research firm, announces that it has entered into a strategic alliance with Ankara, Turkey based SEMPRO Consulting Engineering
(SEMPRO). The purpose for the alliance is to provide PLM professionals in Turkey with easier access to CIMdata’s globally recognized PLM education programs and strategic management consulting services.

Under this alliance, SEMPRO will offer CIMdata’s PLM Certificate program for PLM professionals and will also offer strategic representation of CIMdata’s consulting services. These joint initiatives will provide organizations with the tools and methodologies they need to solve the most complex challenges facing global enterprises.

The first educational program under the auspices of this alliance was held in Ankara, Turkey during the week of January 13, 2019. During that week CIMdata facilitated a private class for a major industrial company based in Turkey and offered a public class that attracted more than 30 attendees. The program was facilitated by a team of CIMdata senior experts and upon successful completion participants received a CIMdata PLM Certificate and were invited to join CIMdata’s global PLM Leadership community. Built on CIMdata’s over 35 years of experience guiding industrial companies in successfully defining and implementing best-in-class PLM strategies and tactics, close to 1,000 PLM professionals have received their PLM Leadership certificate from CIMdata since the program was introduced in 2009.

According to CIMdata’s president, Peter Bilello, “Despite advancements, many companies are still spending a significant amount of time and money tackling the pain points of digital transformation so that they can fully realize the potential value and its place within their enterprise architecture. CIMdata is excited to partner with SEMPRO to offer professional education and best-in-class consulting to organizations based in Turkey to enable them access to the tools and knowledge they need to help them define and execute their strategic PLM initiatives.”

Commenting on the alliance, Semiha YAŞAR, SEMPRO’s owner and founder said, “The mission of SEMPRO is to provide training and process development services for companies engaged in product development and manufacturing. We know that we have experienced engineers in Turkey, but they are not being exposed to the best practices needed to better conduct their functions, capture the collective know-how, and to train the next generation of engineers. Our alliance with CIMdata will allow us to provide a full suite of educational and solution services built upon a foundation of industry experience. This will allow CIMdata and SEMPRO’s industry clients to efficiently and effectively solve the issues affecting their businesses.”

For more information on the strategic alliance between CIMdata and SEMPRO please contact Cheryl Peck at c.peck@CIMdata.com.

About SEMPRO
SEMPRO was founded by Semiha Yaşar in March 2015. SEMPRO offers process development services for companies that are engaged in product development and manufacturing processes. More information on SEMPRO may be found at www.semprocon.com.tr

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Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions. Since its founding in 1983, CIMdata has delivered world-class knowledge, expertise, and best-practice methods on PLM solutions. These solutions incorporate both business processes and a wide-ranging set of PLM-enabling technologies.

CIMdata works with both industrial organizations and providers of technologies and services seeking competitive advantage in the global economy. In addition to consulting, CIMdata conducts research, provides PLM-focused subscription services, and produces several commercial publications. The company also provides industry education through PLM certificate programs, seminars, and conferences worldwide. CIMdata serves clients around the world from offices in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. To learn more about CIMdata’s services, visit our website at www.CIMdata.com, follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/CIMdataPLMNews, or contact CIMdata at: 3909 Research Park Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, USA, Tel: +1 734.668.9922. Fax: +1 734.668.1957; or at Oogststraat 20, 6004 CV Weert, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 (0) 495.533.666.

Digitalization and MBSE: Market Trends, Challenges & Opportunities (CIMdata Blog)

1 February 2019

The widespread digitalization of discrete product development processes combined with the ever-increasing complexity of today’s cyber-physical systems is increasing focus on connecting and managing the digital thread of data and models from the early conceptual systems design to the downstream functions more typically managed within the scope of PLM.

Don Tolle, Director, Simulation-Driven Systems Development Consulting Practice at CIMdata, shares his thoughts on this topic and more in a recent blog posting which is available at https://www.cimdata.com/en/resources/cimdata-blog/item/11359-digitalization-and-mbse-market-trends-challenges-opportunities

CIMdata will look into this topic in more detail at the upcoming PLM Market & Industry Forum events which will take place in Ann Arbor MI; Frankfurt Germany; Pune, India; Beijing, China; and Tokyo, Japan this coming April. The theme for 2019 is "Augmented Intelligence: Applications Across the Product Lifecycle."

For more information visit our PLM Market & Industry Forum web pages at http://www.cimdata.com/en/education/plm-market-industry-forums

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**Acquisitions**

*Rockwell Automation acquires software developer Emulate3D*

28 January 2019

Rockwell Automation has acquired Emulate3D, an engineering software developer whose products digitally simulate and emulate industrial automation systems. By using simulation models to improve systems planning and decision-making, followed by emulation trials that test the control system before installation, Emulate3D’s software enables customers to virtually test machine and system designs before incurring manufacturing and automation costs and committing to a final design.

"We are excited about the opportunities that Emulate3D’s software offers our customers," said Fran Wlodarczyk, Rockwell Automation senior vice president for its architecture and software segment. "They will have the ability to improve their time to market and operational productivity through digital machine prototyping and virtual commissioning. It also marks another investment by Rockwell Automation to bring the Connected Enterprise to life."

Rockwell Automation will add Emulate3D’s technology to its digital design portfolio to deliver solutions to automotive, logistics, material handling, and other industrial applications. Software will be sold as Emulate3D by Rockwell Automation, as part of Rockwell Automation’s FactoryTalk DesignSuite.

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*Zuken to Acquire Vitech Corporation*

29 January 2019

Zuken Inc today announced an agreement to purchase Vitech Corporation for an undisclosed amount. Vitech is a global solutions company based in Blacksburg, VA, United States, specializing in systems engineering, with products and services directed at the Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) market.

As product complexity continues to increase, companies are adopting MBSE tools and processes to better define product requirements, structure and behavior. Vitech Corporation's GENESYS product is a MBSE software tool that incorporates the key components of building a complex system involving people, processes, data, and documentation. Companies in the aerospace, transportation and military segments rely on Vitech to enhance their system engineering processes and outcomes.

Zuken is a global provider of electrical and electronic design, and data management solutions to a range of industries that includes automotive, transportation, aerospace and consumer electronics. Zuken's global brands include CR-8000, a native 3D multi-board / IC packaging design platform; and E3.series, an industry-leading wire harness design solution. The acquisition of Vitech will complement and expand Zuken's advanced design technologies portfolio with a systems engineering solutions offering.

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Company News

*Accenture Opens Intelligent Operations Center in Fukuoka To Help Clients Spur Innovation*

27 January 2019

Accenture today opened a new Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka in Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka Prefecture, as part of the company’s growth plans to expand in Japan. Positioning Fukuoka as one of two major locations in Kyushu along with the Kumamoto Center for providing business process services (BPS), the new Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka focuses on helping enterprise clients drive innovation.

At the new Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka location, clients can work with Accenture’s professionals with expertise in digital and automation technologies, including robotic process automation (RPA), analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) as well as specific industries and business processes, including accounting, finance, HR, procurement, sales, and marketing, to create intelligent operations. Most notably, Accenture professionals from Kumamoto location has achieved a 90 percent improvement in automating the current business operations for local clients.

The new Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka is also a location for implementing and providing those intelligent operations services to the clients. It is part of Accenture’s global delivery network of more than 50 locations worldwide, Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka is connected to these global centers to seamlessly bring the best of Accenture’s global investments and insights to its clients on the ground in Japan, as well as providing advanced business processes from Fukuoka to the world.

“Expanding in Fukuoka now gives clients more resources to address their need for automation and to improve the efficiency of their operations for superior business outcomes,” said Atsushi Egawa, president and country managing director, Accenture Japan. “Fukuoka’s innovative spirit and culture for open mindedness and new ideas makes it an ideal city for the new facility for the future of work. Accenture has 20 consecutive quarters of double-digit growth in Japan, and we hope the Accenture Intelligent Operations Center will accelerate the growth our business.”

Soichiro Takashima, Mayor of Fukuoka city, said: “It is great news that Accenture, the global professional service company with many enterprise clients in Japan, opens an advanced operations center in Fukuoka. Working to attract advanced companies from all over Japan and other countries, Fukuoka welcomes the opening of Accenture’s new center to create jobs and to promote Fukuoka as an innovative city for Japan and the world.”

The Accenture Innovation Architecture combines capabilities from across the company and is built around six elements to help organizations at any stage of their digital transformation, Accenture Research, Accenture Ventures, Accenture Labs, Accenture Studios, Accenture Innovation Centers, and Accenture Delivery Centers.

Accenture Intelligent Operations Center Fukuoka delivers three of these capabilities: Accenture Studio for rapid development and prototyping of applications and the design and creation of digital services, Accenture Innovation Center for demonstrating and scale industry solutions, and Accenture Delivery Center for industrializing the delivery of Accenture innovations globally, unlocking the power of New IT and transform business processes through an unparalleled network across more than 50 locations. AIO Fukuoka will work closely with Accenture’s innovation-generating network all over the world,
CONTACT Software launches own AI unit

31 January 2019

With the new Data Science Group CONTACT Software underlines its commitment in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The team of experts guides companies from the evaluation of new application possibilities for AI in the PLM and IoT environment to the introduction of concrete solutions for new business opportunities and digital services.

Artificial intelligence (AI) becomes the essential driver of digitization and industry 4.0. In this context, the European Commission has presented a series of investment measures worth €20 billion to better exploit the potential of AI and increase Europe's competitiveness.

Companies are increasingly recognizing the potential behind state-of-the-art statistical methods, data mining and machine learning. However, they are hesitant about the concrete application. They often lack the necessary expertise and experience to integrate AI technology into their business in a targeted and practical way.

CONTACT Software has founded its own Data Science Group to meet these needs. The team of mathematicians, computer scientists and data scientists supports companies in evaluating AI technologies, further developing their own competencies and successfully using them for their own business in line with their individual situation. From the development of valid application possibilities in the form of data-centered business models to the creation of digital infrastructures and the integration into ongoing operations, the Data Science Group supports companies on their way to raising new value-added potentials.

In a video interview, Dr. Udo Göbel, head of the CONTACT Data Science Group, explains which steps companies can take under the guideline "AI needs strategy". "The expectations associated with AI are only fulfilled if the companies also formulate a vision: What is the business model and what should the analysis of one's own data do for it," says Göbel.

Deltek Announces Winners of the Partner Awards Program at its 2019 Annual Global Partner Kickoff

30 January 2019

Deltek recently wrapped its annual Global Partner Kickoff event – the largest gathering of Deltek partners from around the globe for two days of networking, breakouts, and strategy sessions to accelerate Deltek’s partner program in 2019.
Deltek works with several types of partners including Resellers, Systems Integrators, Outsourced Managed Services, Software & Technology Vendors, Referrals and Industry Advocates. At this year’s kickoff event, eight of those outstanding organizations were recognized for their efforts marketing and selling Deltek solutions in 2018.

During the Global Partner Kickoff awards luncheon, the following partners were recognized for their accomplishments in 2018:

• The Reseller of the Year – Full Sail Partners
• The GovCon Partner of the Year – Premier Consulting & Integration, LLC (PCI)
• The International Reseller of the Year – Silversoft
• The Global Consulting Partner of the Year – BDO
• Recipient of the Marketing Excellence Award for Professional Services – Silversoft
• Recipient of the Marketing Excellence Award for Government Contracting – Corporate Results Inc.(CRI)
• Recipient of the Marketing Excellence Award for Talent Management – TELUS Employer Solutions
• Recipient of the Marketing Excellence Award for PPM – DRMcNatty & Associates, Inc.

"Deltek’s Partner Awards provide us the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary work of our partners and their contributions and expertise in helping Deltek customers deliver successful projects," said Matt Strazza, Senior Vice President of Global Sales at Deltek. "I am thrilled to honor our top achieving partners for their outstanding performance in 2018. On behalf of everyone at Deltek, thank you to our entire partner community for your continued dedication to Deltek, and congratulations to all of our partners that were recognized during our Deltek’s Global Partner Kickoff event."

The Industrial Internet Consortium and OpenFog Consortium Unite

31 January 2019

The Industrial Internet Consortium® (IIC™) and the OpenFog Consortium® (OpenFog) today announced that they have finalized the details to combine the two largest and most influential international consortia in Industrial IoT, fog and edge computing. Effective immediately, the organizations will work together under the IIC umbrella to drive the momentum of the industrial internet, including the development and promotion of industry guidance and best practices for fog and edge computing.

Today’s announcement brings OpenFog members into the IIC at a time when their complementary areas of technology are emerging in the mainstream. The first formal meeting of the unified organization will be held in Raleigh, N.C., from February 11-14.

The IIC, now incorporating OpenFog, also announced that the IIC Steering Committee, which guides the strategic direction of the organization, has elected two OpenFog principals:

• Ron Zahavi, Chief Strategist for IoT Standards, Azure IoT, Microsoft. Mr. Zahavi is focused on IoT standards and consortia and also leads Microsoft’s Worldwide IoT Architecture Community. Mr. Zahavi has extensive experience in all aspects of technology management and solution
delivery, 18 of those related to IoT solutions. Matt Vasey, Microsoft director, AI and IoT business development, will serve as the alternate to Mr. Zahavi.

- Mung Chiang, John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering, Purdue University. Dr. Chiang was previously the Arthur LeGrand Doty Professor at Princeton University and founded the Princeton EDGE Lab in 2009. The Lab bridges the theory-practice gap in edge computing/networking research by spanning from proofs to prototypes. Dr. Chiang received the 2013 Alan T. Waterman Award for his contributions to networking R&D.

“This agreement brings together the two most important organizations shaping the Industrial Internet of Things. The combined organization offers greater influence to members, more clarity to the market, and a lower-risk path to the future for end users. We will be the center of gravity for the future of Industrial IoT systems across industry verticals,” said Stan Schneider, CEO of Real-Time Innovations (RTI) and Vice Chair of the IIC Steering Committee. “We welcome the experience and vision that Ron Zahavi and Mung Chiang bring to our Steering Committee.”

“We are excited to take the first steps toward integrating the OpenFog Working Groups, Testbeds and Use Cases with those of the IIC,” said Matt Vasey, OpenFog chairman and president, and director, AI and IoT business development, Microsoft. “Our membership is highly motivated to contribute at every level to continue the advancement of fog technology in the Industrial Internet.”

Additional quotes about this news from IIC Steering Committee Members can be found at https://www.iiconsortium.org/press-room/01-31-19.htm.

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Infor Announces Strategic Partnership with ESDS to Drive Digital Transformation for Indian and Middle-Eastern Businesses

1 February 2019

Infor today announced a partnership with ESDS, India's leading Managed Data Center and Cloud Hosting Service provider. The collaboration will combine Infor’s industry-specific cloud solutions with ESDS’ extensive experience in providing auto-scalable, multidimensional cloud solutions for highly-reliable and scalable IT infrastructure for businesses.

Through this partnership, Infor and ESDS will provide a robust and modern IT infrastructure that delivers state-of-the-art user experience along with an integrated platform for seamless collaboration across existing systems and deep data analytics capabilities to drive informed business decisions. Additionally, customers can accelerate deployments and have increased access to experienced consultants who can assist organisations in optimising their use of Infor products.

“Organizations across industries are in the midst of the digital transformation wave and looking to the cloud for business growth. They can leverage ESDS cloud to stay ahead in the digital curve, enabling businesses to save costs, ensure enhanced security and drive agility for operations. Together with Infor, we aim to support organisations in their digital transformation journey,” said GS Murthy, Chief Executive Officer, Global Business, ESDS.

“With cross-industry services, Infor is delighted to be ESDS’s solution partner across Infor’s key
markets - India and the Middle East. We look forward to assisting organisations that span the different verticals as they continue to adopt emerging technologies and embrace digital transformation”, said Darryl Cox, Director of Strategic Alliances for IMEA, Infor. ‘‘ESDS’ expertise in managed data center services, coupled with Infor's industry-specific cloud solutions, will promote faster and more effective responses to market opportunities, serving as a catalyst for growth for both organisations. Strategic partnerships are key to our business, and we look forward to our collaboration with ESDS,” Darryl added.

Ioniqa completes € 12M funding round
30 January 2019
Ioniqa announces it has completed a funding round of € 12M for the launch of its 10 kiloton upcycling process for the infinite use of PET plastic materials. Together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, Nationaal Groenfonds and The Coca-Cola Company, Ioniqa’s shareholders provided the funding for the development and build of the first 10kt plant in the Netherlands.

Tonnis Hooghoudt, Ioniqa’s CEO and Founder, said: “This is yet another major milestone in bringing our technology to the market for making plastics a sustainable material. After the earlier announcements stating the strong interest of Unilever, The Coca-Cola Company and Indorama, we have secured the funding to deliver high-grade raw materials for food grade packaging. We are optimistic making this world a better place, by contributing to the cleaning up of the plastic waste on this planet.”

“Even with a compelling business case as Ioniqa’s, attracting financing for innovative technologies in this phase remains a challenge. With the vision and pragmatism of the funding parties involved we have been able to successfully close this round” says Jeroen Bulk, Ioniqa’s CFO.

State Secretary Mona Keijzer of The Netherlands (Economic Affairs and Climate Policy): “Ioniqa’s upcycling process promises to be a pioneering innovation to reduce plastic waste. I like to help these entrepreneurs making their Dutch solutions for global challenges successful. Our common goal for a more sustainable and circular economy leads to new opportunities for The Netherlands to be competitive globally. My Ministry will contribute to this purpose and give support by providing knowledge, financing and partnerships to improve innovative products or services.”

“Together with Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO we arranged this bespoke loan for Ioniqa and it is a unique example of financing a sustainable project” says Jean-Paul Schuaitj, Director of Nationaal Groenfonds “our funding is tailor-made and meeting the requirements of both Ioniqa and RVO. Overcoming the challenge for this innovative project contributes to an on-time start of the new plant and making a significant contribution to the circular economy.”
The Revolution in Simulation Initiative Continues to Gain Momentum as Aras Joins the Growing List of Sponsors

31 January 2019

The new industry collaboration and technology alliance Revolution In Simulation (“Rev-Sim” at www.rev-sim.org), created to accelerate innovation through the democratization of engineering simulation, announces the addition of Aras Corporation as a new sponsor for 2019.

Aras provides an open, flexible, scalable, and upgradable PLM platform that enables global companies to modernize and transform systems engineering processes across the lifecycle to connect people and product information throughout the enterprise. Aras brings a Simulation Process and Data Management (SPDM) capability into its open PLM platform to provide a way for organizations to connect simulation, and simulation experts, to mainstream engineering processes for traceability, access, and reuse across the product lifecycle.

Aras adds its name to a growing list of sponsors including: ASSESS, Comet Solutions, EASA, ESRD, ESTECO, Front End Analytics, Kinetic Vision, NAFEMS, PLM Alliances and VCollab. These innovative organizations are providing the expertise and funding to support the growing industry-wide movement to make engineering simulation more accessible, efficient, and reliable not just for CAE experts but also for everyone in the enterprise – what is commonly referred to as the “Democratization of Simulation”.

RevSim.Org co-founder, Rich McFall comments: “As a non-profit seeking initiative, our sponsors are critical in fueling the Democratization of Simulation movement. We are excited to see Aras joining other market leaders who are demonstrating their revolutionary thought leadership by supporting RevSim.Org with their expertise, resources and funding that benefits industrial users of simulation technologies.”

Aras SVP of Strategy, Marc Lind, comments: "Aras is pleased to be a sponsor of the Revolution in Simulation community. With our recent acquisition of Comet Solutions and its unique simulation automation platform, Aras has committed to adding effective and seamless Simulation Process and Data Management (SPDM) to its open and extensible PLM platform, Innovator. This brings the full power of simulation and simulation data to everyone on the Aras Platform, across the enterprise. The revolution in simulation is here and we are a part of it!"

Siemens Supports University of Technology with Industry 4.0 Lab

28 January 2019

The HCM City University of Technology (HCMUT) appointed Siemens as its technology partner to develop the university’s Industry 4.0 Lab.
CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

The partnership, which leverages Siemens’ expertise, aims to foster greater development in science and technology in Việt Nam.

As part of the agreement, the two parties will identify gaps in the current curricula in Industry 4.0 and energy technology, and develop new training courses to supplement and enhance HCMUT’s current offerings.

Siemens’ digital twin portfolio and expertise in automation, drive, and energy technologies will facilitate the inception of the Industry 4.0 Lab, which includes four pillars: total integrated automation solutions, product lifecycle management (PLM), digitalization concept for factories and power generation, and transmission and distribution.

By implementing Siemens’ solutions at their Innovation Lab, HCMUT can now showcase the complete suite of Siemens software and services at the Industry 4.0 Lab.

With a full range of solutions, the facility will support proof of concepts and illustrate how enterprise-wide digitalization is transforming the global manufacturing industry.

The goal is to give students and industry a unique environment to build and test digital solutions, using the world’s most advanced PLM, digital manufacturing, and manufacturing operations and quality management software technology solutions.

Storage solutions specialist BITO: Innovative product processes better stored with CONTACT Software
28 January 2019

BITO Storage solutions, a leading manufacturer and supplier of industry- and customer-oriented storage solutions in Europe, optimizes its innovation potential in the product development and project management process with CIM Database PLM from CONTACT Software. The ambition: to advance the digital transformation of its customers in distribution logistics as well.

BITO-Lagertechnik Bittmann GmbH, founded in 1845, is one of the few complete suppliers in the industry to develop, manufacture and market high-quality shelving, container, order picking and transport systems. With a turnover of 240 million euros (2017), the international company with over 950 employees is one of the market leaders for innovative storage solutions in Europe.

Comprehensive, often industry-specific requirements and the increasing digitalization and automation of logistics also require a high degree of innovation and flexibility from storage technology. In order to continue to grow successfully in this dynamic environment in the future and to expand its market leadership, BITO is replacing its old system with CIM Database PLM from CONTACT Software.

The solution optimizes the cross-location product development of the company through integrated Multi-CAD data management and the "Single Source of Truth" principle. Together with CONTACT's modules for agile and hybrid project management, BITO will improve its company-wide cooperation, accelerate the processes along the entire product development process and consistently secure its innovation leadership in smart solutions for storage logistics.

"Customers appreciate the flexibility of our solutions. We chose CONTACT software to be more agile
in responding to new and special requirements and to ensure process traceability," said Daniela Bondorf, Project Management /CAD at BITO Storage solutions.

**Events News**

*ASSESS Initiative Announces csimsoft as a Gold Sponsor of the ASSESS 2019 Congress and the ASSESS Initiative*

31 January 2019

ASSESS Initiative is proud to announce that csimsoft, will be a Gold Sponsor for the upcoming ASSESS 2019 Congress to be held at Chateau Elan Winery & Resort, Oct 27th-29th, 2019.

“The ASSESS Congress brings together an experienced group from various organizations who understand the importance of growing the use of engineering simulation,” said Randy Morris, csimsoft’s Managing Director. “We are pleased to support the ASSESS Initiative and its annual congress as part of the collaborative effort to improve the awareness and increase the value of engineering simulation to the industry.”

The ASSESS 2019 Congress is the 4th annual congress for ASSESS organized to “enable” both strategies and relationships related to significantly increasing the use and benefit of Engineering Simulation. Key business drivers are forcing a “simulation revolution” to overcome the issue of required expertise which is limiting the expansion of Engineering Simulation usage. The theme of the ASSESS 2019 Congress is “Advancing the Engineering Simulation Revolution.”

Registration for the ASSESS 2019 Congress is by invitation only and is limited to 105 attendees. Registration will close either when all available seats are taken but no later than October 24, 2019.

csimsoft has also agreed to be a Gold Sponsor of the ASSESS Initiative activities outside of the annual congress.

“csimsoft has been an active participant and supporter of ASSESS and we appreciate their continued support of and participation at our annual congress and in our activities outside of the congress,” says Joe Walsh, CEO and Co-Founder of the ASSESS Initiative.

The ASSESS Initiative was formed to bring together key players, both users and developers of simulation software, to guide and influence the software tool strategies for performing model-based analysis, simulation, and systems engineering with a vision “To significantly expand the use and benefit of software tools for model-based analysis, simulation, and systems engineering in the engineering applications domain.”

The [ASSESS Initiative Membership](https://www.asess倡议.org/) program provides the ability for the ASSESS Initiative to expand its efforts and community benefits beyond the annual congress. The ASSESS Membership Program is appropriate for all organizations engaged in Analysis, Simulation, and Systems Engineering activities related to Engineered products & processes. The ASSESS Membership Program is offered in individual or group memberships. Active ASSESS Initiative Members receive access to Members Only content on the ASSESS website and a discount on the ASSESS Congress Registration Fees.
Sourcing at Magic to focus on smart design & manufacturing
28 January 2019

SOURCING AT MAGIC links the entire global supply chain. With over 40 countries represented, this event attracts designers, brands and retailers alike to discover what they need to move their business forward.

The Sourcing at Magic show 2019, February 4-7, 2019, focuses on smart design and advanced manufacturing. Topics to be discussed at the show include make design changes in real time digitally, digital rendering of design in 3-D, 3D to 2D digital pattern rendering, smart color management ‘rip’ system, and creating and managing a virtual inventory.

Advanced manufacturing includes the following topics: precision cutting of textile materials, working with advanced materials, digital ‘direct to garment’ printing (cotton and synthetics), and sublimation printing. Tukatech and Mutoh will be presenting onsite.

‘Production For The Fashion Futurist’ will be held by Peter Kilduff Ph.D. professor, apparel merchandising, & management Cal Poly Pomona and Ram Sareen. They will also speak on the topic ‘What Technology You Should Be Aware of in 2019 and Beyond’.

The show will include a live demo of ‘Advanced Manufacturing’ machinery and equipment. New this year is a smart-tech area!

Sourcing at Magic
Las Vegas Convention Center
February 4-7, 2019

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 Closes with Initiatives to Address Global Problems
1 February 2019

The 49th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting closed with an exciting agenda of global initiatives and commitments to better the state of our world.

To address the myriad of complex challenges brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, World Economic Forum President Børge Brende said the Forum would continue to leverage its platform for public-private cooperation and the greater good.

“We cannot solve the most pressing global challenges without unique partnerships between government, business and civil society,” Brende told participants.

Commending the tremendous outcomes of the meeting this year – from global initiatives to tackle plastic waste and mental-health drives to facilitate peace in countries besieged by conflict – Brende
called for integrated global action to repair broken trust and uphold dignity for all.

Shaping a global architecture adapted to the pressing challenges of our time, said Brende, is crucial and can only be achieved “with all stakeholders at the table”.

Below is a selection of outcomes from the Annual Meeting. To review the entire announcement, click here.

Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan pledged his country’s G20 chairmanship to the development of an agenda for global data governance. Abe said that the process, dubbed the “Osaka track”, would work under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reaffirmed her commitment to multilateralism in a plenary address at the Annual Meeting, calling on leaders to find common ground in search of a strengthened, but more flexible, global architecture. Striking a similar note, Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan reiterated the values of the rising superpower, stating China’s wish to work with all countries for common development, promoting global growth and upholding the international order.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a united response to global challenges, underlining the importance of multilateral institutions and advocating for leaders to understand and address the root causes of social unrest.

United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described social unease as “new winds blowing across the world” and stressed America’s commitment to leadership and national interest in a changing geopolitical environment.

Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern unveiled a new approach to the country’s finances, announcing a “well-being budget” to gauge the long-term impact of policy on the quality of people’s lives.

Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil, outlined the reforms his new administration is planning: Reducing the size of the state, lowering the tax burden, improving social safety nets and fostering greater business opportunities. The president declared Brazil open to the world and told participants his government would lead by example.

The leaders of Brazil, Colombia and Peru, along with the Foreign Minister of Canada, proclaimed their countries’ backing of Juan Guaidó, leader of Venezuela’s opposition-controlled parliament after he declared himself interim president. A day earlier, Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez called on Guaidó to take action.

Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, asserted his country’s commitment to democracy. Ghani reminded participants that Afghanistan has passed 390 new laws since 2015 and significantly increased the number of women in politics.


The prime ministers of Italy and Spain called for a radical revision of global economic systems and committed their countries to transformative economic change to improve opportunities for working people.
The Presidents of South Africa and Rwanda called for the continent to take advantage of digital technologies in order to spur job creation and develop human capital. Presidents Paul Kagame and Cyril Ramaphosa urged governments to keep up with young people’s engagement with technology and put ICT at the centre of Africa’s socio-economic development goals. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, outlined his country’s policy reforms and invited business to invest in Ethiopia.

**Building a new economy and society**

Reskilling and upskilling workers: The Forum’s Closing the Skills Gap Initiative, launched in 2017 in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services, announced it has secured pledges for training more than 17 million people globally, as well as supporting public-private partnerships that promote future skills in Argentina, India, Oman and South Africa. The Forum also released a study showing that 86% of the $34 billion total cost for reskilling workers displaced by technology over the next decade will likely fall on the government.

Closing the gender gap: The Forum’s Centre for the New Economy and Society announced it is expanding its network of Closing the Gender Gap national task forces to eight countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Panama and Peru.

Preparing civil society: With financial backing from PACT and the Children’s Investment Fund and backed by 25 civil society organizations, the Forum launched a new initiative, Preparing Civil Society for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, aimed at helping civil society meet the challenges presented to it by rapid technological change.

Promoting equality: A group of international businesses teamed up to launch the Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality. Members of the partnership agree to operationalize the UN’s LGBTI Standards of Conduct worldwide throughout their business by 2020. The partnership plans to enlist at least 50 other member companies by 2020.

Supporting fragile economies: The Forum joined forces with the World Bank and International Committee of the Red Cross to launch a High-Level Group on Humanitarian Investing to unlock private-sector capital for investment in fragile economies.

**Environmental stewardship**

Protecting the natural world: Sir David Attenborough urged participants to care for the natural world, describing the threat posed by climate change as “difficult to overstate” and urging participants to reconnect with the natural world.

Eliminating electronic waste: The Forum’s Centre for Global Public Goods initiated a project to create a formal electronic waste recycling industry in Nigeria, backed by $2 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility and supplemented by $13 million of financing from business. The Forum, in collaboration with the United Nations E-waste coalition, released a report outlining the scale of electronic waste produced each year, which is set to more than double by 2050.

Reducing deforestation: Peru joins the Forum’s Tropical Forest Alliance in a bid to help the country achieve its target of reducing deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon. The country is home to the second-largest area of Amazonian forest after Brazil.


Mobilizing people for the planet: Voice for the Planet, a global campaign to build a movement for a new
deal for nature and people was launched by US Vice-President (1993-2001) Al Gore, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand and Anand Mahindra of Mahindra Group. The campaign, powered by the Global Shapers community, garnered 21,000 individual pledges within 48 hours.

It is also important to note that the Forum fully offsets the carbon footprint of all participants by buying carbon credits from South Pole, a Forum Social Entrepreneur.

**On the Forum’s platform for public-private cooperation**

Reusable packaging: A total of 25 global businesses announced they will work with Terracycle, a recycling specialist and Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur, to launch the Loop Alliance Initiative, a new concept of reusable packaging. The scheme, which will involve customers paying a refundable deposit for durable packaging with no extra fee for collection, will recover the environmental costs of production after three or four uses.

Sustainable consumption and production: Google and SAP announced Circular Economy 2030, a $400,000 competition to support entrepreneurs who promote sustainable consumption and production.

Mental health: The Wellcome Trust committed $260 million over five years to improve understanding of depression and anxiety. Research will concentrate on psychological therapies that can be delivered early in life and at the onset of illness, as mental health problems typically start at a young age. Elisha London, Chief Executive Officer of United for Global Mental Health, champions those with lived experience and highlighted the key role of civil society.

Antimicrobial resistance: UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock launched a five-year plan to tackle the global threat of antimicrobial resistance, which is predicted to result in a global death toll of 10 million people every year by 2050. The plan sets out how the UK will achieve its vision for a world in which antimicrobial resistance is contained and controlled by 2040, covering health, animals, the environment and the food chain.

Sickle cell disease: The Government of Ghana, the Ghana Sickle Cell Foundation and Novartis launched a partnership to help improve and extend the lives of sickle cell disease (SCD) patients in Ghana. SCD is expected to affect around 14 million newborns by 2050, 82% of whom will be in sub-Saharan Africa.

Empowering youth and accessibility: The Global Youth Alliance was launched at the Annual Meeting by Facebook, Nestlé and Nielsen to support skills for young people in emerging and developed countries and help 71 million currently unemployed young people.

Disability Inclusion: #Valuable500, a new campaign was launched at the Annual Meeting to help release the social and economic potential of the 1.3 billion people around the world who live with a disability. The campaign led by activist Caroline Casey aims to gather the support of 500 companies within one year. Unilever, Accenture, Fujitsu and Barclays are among the first companies that signed up to the pledge.

Increasing e-commerce and trade: Rwanda became the first African country to join Alibaba’s global trading platform, which is aimed at increasing e-commerce in emerging markets. Meanwhile, a group of more than 70 countries confirmed intentions to commence WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of e-commerce, and members of the Forum’s business and civil society trade community issued a statement calling for a new digital trade deal for the global economy.

Cyber-experts brought together by the Forum’s Centre for Cybersecurity stressed the importance of global cooperation and multilateralism as a crucial condition to tackle malicious cyber-activity. The
Cyber Centre and the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, in collaboration with Willis Towers Watson, launched a project to protect airports and other critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks.

Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The Forum’s Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced it has grown to more than 100 businesses and governments, including five G7 nations. Colombia, Israel and the United Arab Emirates will open Affiliate Centres – independent institutions committed to helping shape and pilot policies for emerging technologies.

The Indian state of Andhra Pradesh adopted the Network’s policy framework for commercial drone operators, developed in collaboration with civil aviation authorities, international governmental organizations and private companies. The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Japan launched a coalition of G20 cities focused on accelerating the responsible and sustainable development of smart cities.

The Co-Chairs of the Annual Meeting 2019: Basima Abdulrahman, Founder, KESK Green Building Consulting, Iraq, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Ebril Hub); Juan David Aristizábal, Co-Founder, Todos por la Educación, Colombia, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Bogota Hub); Noura Berrouba, Member of the Governing Body, European Youth Parliament, Sweden, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Stockholm Hub); Julia Luscombe, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Feeding America, USA, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Chicago Hub); Mohammed Hassan Mohamud, Zonal Chairman, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Kakuma Hub); Satya Nadella, Chief Executive Officer, Microsoft Corporation, USA; and Akira Sakano, Co-Founder and Communication Director, RDND, Japan, and World Economic Forum Global Shaper (Osaka Hub).

The World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting brings together governments, international organizations, business, civil society, media, culture, foremost experts and the young generation from all over the world, at the highest level and in representative ways. It engages some 60 heads of state and government, over 300 ministerial-level government participants, and business representation at the chief executive officer and chair level.

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Financial News

ANSYS to Release Fourth Quarter and FY 2018 Earnings on February 27, 2019

28 January 2019

ANSYS, Inc. announced today that the Company expects to release its fourth quarter and FY 2018 earnings on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, after the market closes. The Company will hold a conference call conducted by Ajei Gopal, president and chief executive officer, and Maria T. Shields, chief financial officer, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, February 28, 2019 to discuss fourth quarter and 2018 results and future outlook.

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION:
What: ANSYS Fourth Quarter and 2018 Earnings Conference Call
When: February 28, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time

We encourage participants to pre-register for the conference call using the enclosed link. Callers who pre-register will be given a unique PIN to gain immediate access to the call, bypassing the live operator. Participants may pre-register any time, including up to and after the call start time. You will immediately receive an online confirmation, an email with the dial in number and a calendar invitation for the event.

To pre-register, go to:
http://dpregister.com/10128385

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IFS Net Revenue Soars Beyond $600M in 2018 on Skyrocketing Cloud and License Sales
29 January 2019

IFS, global enterprise applications company, announced its financial results for the full year ended December 31, 2018.

IFS CEO Darren Roos commented, “We are outpacing large and medium-sized competitors in the ERP space and our robust 2018 financial results reflect that. Our major engines of growth for the year ahead include IFS Aerospace & Defense, IFS Field Service Management and IFS Applications. Alongside these innovations will be a firm commitment to continue challenging the status quo while providing world-class customer service. Building on the momentum created in 2018, we enter 2019 with a renewed sense of purpose and a future guided by our customers.”

IFS CFO Milena Roveda added, “Our financial performance in 2018 doesn’t just make a nice headline. It’s a testament to a business built on innovation and an unrelenting commitment to providing customer-focused solutions. This is how we set ourselves apart from the competition. With an increase of 300% in cloud sales, and a net revenue improvement of 23% versus 2017, we are outpacing the market by a factor of more than three.”

Business Performance: Financial and Operational Highlights for FY 2018

Driven by a double-digit increase in product revenue, net revenue growth soared to 23%, outperforming the projected market growth of 7%. Cloud and SaaS saw a revenue increase of a remarkable 300%.

Results like these don’t happen on their own. A number of major transformation projects were carried out in 2018 with the expressed aim to facilitate global growth and ever-happier customers. Projects included harmonizing customer service and support as IFS has continued to grow its footprint in the medium-to-large enterprise segments. 2018 also saw the launch of key products, including IFS Applications 10, IFS Field Service Management 6, and SaaS-based solutions in the IFS Aerospace & Defense product line.

These dramatic gains were ushered in following the appointment of IFS CEO Darren Roos in early 2018. To complete the company’s global leadership team, Roos recruited talent from some of the best-known technology brands including SAP, Oracle, Software AG and Hewlett Packard.

Chief Product Officer Christian Pedersen, who assumed the role in September 2018, also brings IFS’s
focus on investing in sensible but forward-thinking technologies to the next level. Among the other visionary hires were Milena Roveda as Chief Financial Officer, Jane Keith as Chief People and Culture Officer, and Michael Ouissi as Chief Customer Officer.

With 2018 in the rearview mirror, IFS has emerged hungry and ready, a company structured to scale as it continues to equip challenger companies everywhere with sensible enterprise solutions.


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**OpenText Reports Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Results**

31 January 2019


"OpenText delivered another strong quarter in Q2. Total revenues grew to $735 million, Annual Recurring Revenues grew to $530 million, up 3%, year over year, with record Adjusted EBITDA margin of 42%," said Mark J. Barrenechea, OpenText CEO & CTO. "The OpenText Cloud continues to gain momentum as cloud revenues grew 5% and delivered 60% Adjusted Gross Margin. The OpenText Cloud is our greatest opportunity."

Barrenechea further added, "Our strategy is Total Growth, where M&A will continue to be our largest growth driver, augmented with organic growth. Over the last 60 days, we have deployed approximately $386 million in capital and closed two cloud-based acquisitions. With a highly talented team and an increasingly strategic position with customers, we are well positioned to scale OpenText to new levels in the coming years."

"Q2 Fiscal 2019 financial performance continues to demonstrate our commitment to Total Growth, a focus on scaling productivity, solid execution of our acquisition framework, expanding margins and strengthening our balance sheet," said Madhu Ranganathan, OpenText EVP & CFO. "During Q2 we demonstrated solid margin performance across the company, generating $308 million of Adjusted EBITDA, $189 million in Operating Cash Flows, an increase of 14% over the prior fiscal year, and $595 million of cash on the balance sheet."


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**SAP Announces Preliminary Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2018 Results**

29 January 2019

SAP today announced its preliminary financial results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2018.

**Financial Highlights**
Full Year 2018

Even after multiple guidance raises during the year SAP met or exceeded all of its 2018 outlook metrics. For the full year new cloud bookings were €1.81 billion, up 25% (up 28% at constant currencies). Cloud subscriptions and support backlog increased 30%, reaching €10 billion at year-end. Cloud subscriptions and support revenue was €4.99 billion (IFRS) or €5.21 billion (non-IFRS at constant currencies), achieving the full year outlook (€5.15 to €5.25 billion non-IFRS at constant currencies). Software revenue decreased 5% year over year to €4.65 billion (IFRS), flat year over year (non-IFRS at constant currencies). New cloud and software license order entry exceeded €10 billion and grew by 14% at constant currencies year over year in the full year. Cloud and software revenue was €20.62 billion (IFRS) or €21.58 billion (non-IFRS at constant currencies), exceeding the full year outlook (€21.15 to €21.35 billion non-IFRS at constant currencies). Total revenue was €24.71 billion (IFRS) or €25.96 billion (non-IFRS at constant currencies), exceeding the full year outlook (€25.20 to €25.50 billion non-IFRS at constant currencies).

SAP’s rapidly expanding cloud business together with solid growth in support revenue continued to drive the share of more predictable revenue. The total of non-IFRS cloud subscriptions & support revenue and non-IFRS software support revenue was 65% of non-IFRS total revenue for the full year 2018, up 2 percentage points.

For the full year, operating profit was €5.71 billion (IFRS) or €7.48 billion (non-IFRS at constant currencies), achieving the full year outlook (€7.425 to €7.525 billion non-IFRS at constant currencies). Earnings per share increased 2% to €3.42 (IFRS) and decreased 2% to €4.35 (non-IFRS).

Operating cash flow for the full year was €4.30 billion, a decrease of 15% year over year. Free cash flow decreased 25% year over year to €2.84 billion. At year end, net liquidity was –€2.49 billion...


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Implementation Investments

Creative Co-op Collaborates with Centric

30 January 2019

Creative Co-op has selected Centric Software to provide its Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution. Creative Co-op is a leading home fashion wholesaler operating under the umbrella of its parent company, Regent Holding Company which owns two other home decor and home fragrance brands: Bloomingville and Illume. Creative Co-op designs and distributes a wide range of homewares, gifts, accessories and furniture across Regent Holding Company’s brands, including many independent retailers in Europe and the US as well as large chain retailers.

With a broad customer base and over 10,000 SKUs to handle, Creative Co-op began looking for a PLM
solution to help the company manage product development and keep up with the ever-changing demands of home fashion.

“Our whole mode of winning is to be fast,” explains Lee Wang, President of Regent Holding. “Home fashion changes just as often as the apparel fashion industry. We have to innovate constantly and come out with fresh designs to stay cutting-edge with our customer base. We’re successful because we’re nimble and offer high quality products at moderate price points. Our main reason for adopting a PLM solution is to maintain our workflow and quality output while working at speed.”

Creative Co-op considered several PLM solutions as well as a variety of other software systems before settling on Centric Software’s cloud-based PLM solution for small to mid-size enterprises, Centric SMB.

As Wang says, “We saw that Centric offers us a very streamlined and well-thought-out process that we can mold our product development operations around. Centric stood out as it is truly end-to-end in relation to product development.”

“Everything was developed with the product development teams in mind; these teams travel and visit factories and have limited time and connectivity. The system is developed for their convenience, which is a rarity. When we saw the demos, we could envision how Centric PLM would fit with our business. Throughout the demo and selection process, Centric were very knowledgeable and responsive.”

“The goal is to make our current product development operations smoother and easier,” says Wang. “PLM will help institutionalize the knowledge and information that exists in the minds of top management and trickle it down throughout the organization, so that everyone who needs to access it will have greater visibility.”

“We are delighted to announce that Creative Co-op is our latest partner in the homewares arena,” says Chris Groves, President and CEO of Centric Software. “Creative Co-op operates in a high-pressure marketplace that demands speed and innovation. We are excited to work with the Creative Co-op team as they revamp product development structures with the support of Centric SMB.”

EWI Adopts GRANTA MI System to Enhance Additive Manufacturing Efficiencies

28 January 2019

Granta Design today announced that EWI, a leading engineering and technology innovator for advanced manufacturing in North America, has selected the GRANTA MI™ software to better coordinate its additive manufacturing (AM) work across multiple AM platforms. The software system is currently being deployed.

GRANTA MI is the leading system for enterprise materials information management. A single ‘gold source’ for all of an organization’s materials data, it saves time, cuts costs, and eliminates risk. Apps, tools to capture and re-use knowledge, and support for CAD, CAE, and PLM, all help to drive material innovation, empower design, and solve materials-related business problems.

EWI’s comprehensive engineering services help companies identify, develop, and implement the best
options for their specific applications. Defining a strategy to capture and characterize material information across different AM platforms is currently a challenge. Every AM machine monitors different metrics, and exports data differently. EWI is meeting this challenge by defining the most effective way to record the data, and then automating and controlling the input process through GRANTA MI. If further metrics are identified as essential to the qualification of a part, the flexibility of GRANTA MI and EWI’s importing strategy will allow the enterprise to go back and pull-in that information with ease.

“We know AM has the potential to be a great tool to meet today’s industry needs, but we also recognize that hesitation to adopt such technology may be due to lack of understanding of the entire process from start to finish,” commented Brendan Lewis, EWI Project Engineer and Team Lead for GRANTA MI implementation. “GRANTA MI will to allow us to capture large amounts of data from all pieces of the AM puzzle and present it in a way that makes sense to the prospective industry adopters. This data capture will allow us to make valuable correlations that can be used to generate data driven standards across the industry, and streamline the development of AM parts internally.”

Lewis added: “We are very excited to be working with the Granta team on this project. Their intuitive GRANTA MI interface, diverse portfolio of industry impact, along with a clear understanding of additive manufacturing has really allowed us to hit the ground running.”

Through the ASTM AM Center of Excellence (CoE), EWI is also working on a variety of programs that will generate data for standards development. This data will be used to help companies understand the properties of AM parts, and improve process parameter development. GRANTA MI supports this by capturing a wide variety of data from the full AM value chain – from feedstock characterization to final material property data. This tracked data includes build information, post-process information, non-destructive testing (NDT), and mechanical testing.

For an in-depth look at how to digitalize your AM projects, join Granta’s live webinar on Wednesday, February 20. Discussions will focus on best practice for capturing the materials and process data generated during AM development projects. Register here: www.grantadesign.com/webseminars/2019/additive-manufacture.htm

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La Chapelle Kickstarts Digital Transformation with Centric PLM

29 January 2019

Shanghai La Chapelle Fashion Co. Ltd. (La Chapelle), the Chinese fashion company, has successfully implemented Centric Software’s Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution.

La Chapelle was founded in 1998 and is a fast fashion specialist with an expanding network of approximately 10,000 directly-operated stores across China. The company, which emphasizes the in-store customer experience, is pursuing a multi-brand strategy and includes labels La Chapelle, Puella, 7.modifier, La Babité, Candie’s, JACK WALK, Pote, MARC ECKÔ, Ulifestyle and 8em. In 2018, La Chapelle acquired French brand Naf Naf. La Chapelle has grown rapidly and reported revenues of 1.3 billion USD (9 billion yuan) at the end of 2017.
Competing with a wave of new fast fashion and retail businesses in China, the traditional apparel retail industry is facing the challenge of digital transformation. La Chapelle committed to deploying an efficient data platform to drive the brand’s rapid development. After a search for a suitable PLM solution, La Chapelle selected Centric PLM as part of a strategy to reform the company’s business model, strengthen internal and external communication and improve the efficiency of human and financial resources.

“We have an innate desire for innovative development at La Chapelle, which has empowered our brands to take this most important step in their digital transformation,” explains Mr. Yu Qiang, Co-CEO of La Chapelle. “After a careful deliberation and selection process, we decided to partner with Centric in our development journey.”

Mr. Zhao Qi, Deputy General Manager of La Chapelle’s Information Division, adds, “We have always hoped to help the company with a set of more advanced tools addressing all stages of a product ranging from financial planning to final operations management in order to support our digital operations and raise our efficiency. This was why we chose to implement PLM.”

La Chapelle kicked off its implementation of Centric 8 PLM for users at the 7.modifier brand and went live on the system in less than three months.

As Ms. Liu Ya, General Manager of the 7.modifier Business Division, says, “During the implementation we encouraged our team members to develop the habit of using PLM, so we can optimize the system using their feedback. We hope that Centric PLM will help standardize our workflow, enable us to share information and control our progress.”

“With the launch of PLM for 7.modifier and our experience from subsequent use of PLM, we hope to implement PLM across our other brands,” she concludes, “We also aim to promote PLM for our external suppliers, once our internal teams are familiar with the system.”

“We are happy to announce that La Chapelle has successfully gone live with Centric 8 PLM,” says Chris Groves, President and CEO of Centric Software. “La Chapelle selected Centric PLM to support their multi-brand business model and provide a digital platform for the company’s continuing growth and expansion. The implementation of Centric PLM for the 7.modifier brand is part of a comprehensive digital transformation that will power their business strategy for years to come.”

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Lamour Selects CGS BlueCherry® PLM and ERP to Unify Its Supply Chain Processes Across 10+ Brands

29 January 2019

CGS today announced that Lamour Hosiery Mfg. Inc., the hosiery manufacturer based in Montreal, selected BlueCherry® Enterprise Suite of cloud-based solutions, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and EDI. The BlueCherry suite provides end-to-end
capabilities for apparel, footwear and consumer lifestyle brands.

Lamour owns and manages over 10 brands including Cory Vines Activewear, BL Intimates, Boston Traders, Trimfit, Hottotties and Terramar Sports. The Montreal-based company conducted a comprehensive review of multiple solutions to address the requirements of unifying its brands on one platform and to re-engineer business processes to reduce time-to-market and to improve supply chain visibility. Lamour sought a solution that included ERP, PLM, logistics and financials, which posed some concerns for the team. With multiple brands and systems in play, centralization of data and the complex management of multiple brands and organizations was a challenge. Lamour required one solution to support all of its brands and would provide data transparency and accuracy.

With extensive expertise and resources in the fashion and apparel market, the CGS BlueCherry suite of cloud solutions will support Lamour’s current and future business as it expands. BlueCherry will help Lamour optimize operational efficiencies, gain better agility and quality control, while simplifying and supporting the company’s acquisition plans.

“For more than 60 years, Lamour has designed, manufactured and marketed apparel for men, women and children,” said Milidar Krcevinac, CFO of Lamour. “As our business expanded, we needed to streamline the process and technology used to meet customer demand. By choosing a unified solution, and one that is synonymous with apparel brands, we anticipate that BlueCherry will help us meet our goals.”

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

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

US Air Force Selects NLign Analytics to Automate Data Capture

28 January 2019

NLign Analytics announces a US Air Force award to provide a streamlined and digital aircraft inspection and repair solution. The program will focus on supporting military A-10 aircraft maintenance activities.

The program is divided into two phases. During the technical maturation phase, NLign’s NLign NCheck™ application will be refined and configured for use on laptop or tablet to facilitate aircraft maintenance processes. NCheck provides the ability to document inspection findings and correlate them to 3D computer model locations. A configurable task management feature allows maintenance personnel to view information concerning assigned tasks and link to detailed work instructions. In the program’s second phase, the application will be transitioned for evaluation within the A-10 depot facilities at Hill
Air Force Base located near Ogden, Utah.

NLign Analytics CEO, Tom Sharp comments: “The current A-10 aircraft inspection and repair concept of operations is a labor intensive and largely paper-based reporting process. The objective is to provide a streamlined digital maintenance solution leveraging the NCheck application. Once deployed, A-10 System Program Office (SPO) and Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) should see significant manpower savings, better quality data captured, and faster turnaround on structural repair dispositions. This award further demonstrates the US Air Force’s commitment to responsiveness and confidence in NLign to support such initiatives.”

Product News

ANSYS 2019 R1 Delivers Speed and Ease of Use for Engineers Solving Next-Generation Product Challenges

29 January 2019

ANSYS is making simulation even more pervasive through the ease of use and new functionalities of its newly released ANSYS® 2019 R1. From a revolutionary user experience in ANSYS® Fluent® to hyper-accurate additive manufacturing solutions to the introduction of groundbreaking capabilities in the new ANSYS® Motion™ product line, ANSYS 2019 R1 enables engineers at every level to develop the most innovative products across a multitude of industries.

Megatrends like 5G, autonomous vehicles and electrification are radically changing the product development landscape, making it difficult for companies to retain engineers who can keep pace. The new capabilities across ANSYS’ entire simulation portfolio empower engineers, regardless of level of expertise, to simulate from beginning to end faster and more intuitively, maximizing their productivity.

"ANSYS' multiphysics solutions enable engineers to keep pace with increasing demands despite decreasing budgets, training and timelines," said Shane Emswiler, vice president and general manager for ANSYS electronics, fluids and mechanical business units at ANSYS. "With the unparalleled improvements in ANSYS 2019 R1, ANSYS ushers in the next generation of Pervasive Engineering Simulation and enables engineers at every level to adopt simulation more seamlessly across the entire product lifecycle."

With ANSYS 2019 R1, engineers can iterate concepts, simulate results and validate designs faster and easier without sacrificing power or accuracy.

Highlights of the release include:

New User Experience

ANSYS 2019 R1 introduces a new ANSYS Fluent user experience built on top of its proven solver that improves the workflow process without compromising accuracy. Engineers will benefit from the complete, single window solution within ANSYS Fluent, offering speed and simplicity at every step. The new experience streamlines the ANSYS Fluent workflow for generating a mesh from imported computer-aided designs and removes usability barriers for common tasks — enabling users to iterate faster with less training."
User-focused enhancements enable more problem-solving. Task-based workflows with parallel processing can now be used to generate Mosaic-enabled Poly-Hexcore meshes up to 10x faster so users can complete more simulations in less time.

"Mosaic technology enabled Fluent Meshing Workflow allows us to reduce the preprocessing time of our electric generator thermal simulations from six to eight days to four hours," said Itsaso Auzmendi-Murua, research and development thermal research engineer, INDar. "It provides us an automated and robust preprocessing tool that accelerates our thermal designs and translates into more confident predictions about the future performance of our generators."

"Mosaic-enabled meshing technology enables us to reduce mesh size by up to 30 percent, mainly in large sizes. Mosaic, along with ANSYS' task-based watertight meshing workflow, speeds the setup and the mesh generation process so we can create high-precision meshes faster, even in complex geometries," said Pablo Fernandez, research and development manager at Schako Iberia. "These are the most remarkable advancements in meshing technique in recent years and we estimate that they will reduce our development time by up to 15 percent."

**New Product Line**

New to the ANSYS portfolio, ANSYS Motion is the most powerful multibody dynamics (MBD) solution on the market. Developed by South Korea's Virtual Motion, Inc., ANSYS is now making this industry-proven technology available to its global users. The third-generation MBD solver offers a full suite of dynamic capabilities for both rigid and flexible bodies. The product line features an extensive range of powerful application-based toolkits — enabling users to model complex mechanisms, including drive systems and vehicle handling, with ease.

**Next-Generation Capabilities for Electronics**

New offerings in the electronics and electromagnetics suite include EMI Scanner, electromigration analysis and noise-vibration-harshness (NVH) capabilities. EMI Scanner is a new feature within ANSYS® SIwave™ and ANSYS® HFSS™ that can quickly identify areas of potential electromagnetic interference on users' printed circuit board designs prior to simulation — eliminating errors and speeding time to market. In ANSYS SIwave, electromigration analysis enables users to predict mean time to failure for on-chip and advanced electronic packaging structures. NVH is a new workflow that includes ANSYS® Maxwell®, ANSYS® Mechanical™ and the acoustic solver coupled together through ANSYS® Workbench™. The workflow calculates the electromagnetic noise of a machine when it vibrates due to electromagnetic forces — producing a complete noise profile of an electrical machine within hours.

**Improving Structural Analysis Efficiency**

A new solver advancement significantly improves how users solve assemblies with contacts, enabling engineers to leverage high performance computing (HPC) and complete certain models more than twice as fast. ANSYS Mechanical also adds thermal compliance to its built-in topology optimization capabilities, empowering users to generate designs that maximize heat transfer.

More powerful than ever, ANSYS Mechanical accurately solves difficult, nonlinear mechanical problems. Enhancements in fatigue crack growth and nonlinear solver re-meshing to solve highly deforming geometries mean more complicated models can be solved with ease. A revolutionary thermal analysis technique uses mixed element types to reduce complexity by 5X without sacrificing accuracy, which is crucial for solving challenging electronics packaging and circuit thermal models.

**Powerful Metal Additive Manufacturing Solutions**
With breakthrough updates to the ANSYS® Additive Suite™, including a new product, ANSYS provides the most powerful simulation solution on the market for metal additive manufacturing (AM). The newly released ANSYS Additive® Science™ delivers an exploratory environment for engineers to determine the optimum process parameters for metal AM machines and materials — helping users understand how changes to machine parameters affect meltpool sizes and material porosity. Within the existing tools, ANSYS® Additive Print™ widens the range for supported materials and is faster with improved robustness for thin-walled structures. ANSYS® Workbench Additive™ increases accuracy while maintaining reasonable model sizes through a new meshing option - layered tetrahedral elements - that significantly impact model fidelity in geometries with fine details.

"We help customers optimize geometries for additive manufacturing across industries, from aircraft to energy to oil and gas. Using ANSYS Additive Print to simulate how materials will behave during the printing process, we shorten the development process and reduce the cost of trial and error," said Sven Donisi, managing director, Rosswag Engineering. "ANSYS enables our customers with more freedom to design and create new alloys with less risk."

**Enhanced Embedded Software**

The embedded software suite brings new and enhanced capabilities for automotive applications, including autonomous vehicles, for multicore code generation and testing. The enhanced workflows and features empower users to design and deliver safety-critical products faster with less engineering effort and reduced cost and time to certification, regardless of industry.

Improvements to SCADE® Suite for automotive applications make it simpler and faster to comply with industry standards like AUTOSAR and ISO 26262 when developing model-based systems and software for autonomous vehicles.

With new enhancements, users can reduce testing costs and speed up certification by achieving model and code coverage in a single activity. The release couples efficiency and error finding with an exclusive tool that enables users to achieve both model and code coverage for embedded software applications in just one activity.

"The latest version of ANSYS SCADE Test provides us with a number of improvements enabling huge savings in both effort and time during the testing phase of our product development process," said Christine La Porte, flight control application software engineer, Dassault Aviation. "We will use this new version of SCADE Test for both our current and upcoming projects to enhance our time to market."

**Enabling Safer Systems**

In the systems suite, ANSYS® VRXPERIENCE® integrates two new camera models enabling users to test the perception algorithm in night driving conditions. The new models also validate automotive systems in dangerous conditions that are complicated to reproduce in physical tests. VRXPERIENCE also includes advanced simulation of scenarios with traffic and vehicle dynamic for head lamps, sensors and HMI use cases, and the product now contains a SCADE plug-in interface allowing users to get faster rapid prototypes for lighting or ADAS control laws.

With new features in ANSYS® medini analyze, users can more quickly and accurately perform functional safety analysis for DO-178C and other standards on aircraft systems. The new ISO PAS 21448 on Safety of the Intended Functionality (SOTIF), in combination with ISO 26262, addresses unreasonable risks in the absence of the malfunctions of the electric and electronic (E/E) systems in automobiles and other land vehicles. SOTIF issues are especially important for advanced driver-assistance systems and autonomous vehicle (AV) systems. New capabilities in ANSYS medini analyze
enable automotive and AV users to perform SOTIF-related analysis of E/E systems.

**Optical Updates**

In the optical suite, ANSYS® SPEOS® strengthens predictive design capabilities for creating, testing and validating a virtual design in a fast iteration loop. ANSYS SPEOS also ensures compliance with international standards and regulations including SAE International, the International Electrotechnical Commission and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The ANSYS SPEOS Head-Up Design and Analysis add-on enables users to anticipate and simulate perception issues like blurry images at a very early development stage — drastically reducing the need for time-consuming and expensive physical prototypes.

"Oceaneering provides remotely operated vehicles to more than half of the world's offshore oil rigs," said Todd Newell, vice president of technology, Oceaneering. "We are developing our next-generation, autonomous vehicle using a combination of ANSYS flagship products, optical and embedded software solutions to test designs and validate algorithms for obstacle avoidance."

**Expanded Physics Capabilities in 3D Design**

In the 3D design suite, ANSYS adds topology optimization to ANSYS® Discovery™ Live – taking a leap forward in making digital exploration and generative design accessible to every engineer. Through real-time shape optimization, engineers can take their ideas to a new level by drastically reducing weight, while retaining strength and creating shapes not previously possible. These capabilities are delivered with the award-winning speed and ease of use associated with Discovery Live.

ANSYS® Discovery™ AIM® expands its physics capabilities by adding a random vibration solution, a common and useful feature for engineers in the aerospace and defense industries. Engineers can now observe the likelihood of a certain displacement or stress due to excitation within a range.

ANSYS® Discovery™ SpaceClaim® now includes two beta features targeted at creating and parameterizing any concept model by including sketch constraints and feature tracking.

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**Barchart Announces Integration of OnDemand APIs into MATLAB**

29 January 2019

Barchart, provider of financial market data and technology, has announced a partnership with MathWorks. New integration with MATLAB, the programming environment from MathWorks for algorithm development, data analysis, visualization, and numeric computation will now allow traders, financial engineers, risk managers and analysts currently using MATLAB and its Datafeed Toolbox to directly access Barchart's OnDemand API solutions and to gain access to Barchart's data from within MATLAB.

Barchart CEO Mark Haraburda says, "We are excited to work with MathWorks and increase our MATLAB user base by making it easier for clients to pull our data into the tools they use. MATLAB is trusted by our user community to backtest data, power asset pricing models, build trading strategies, and develop dynamic portfolio optimizations. This native integration into MATLAB is something our users have been asking for, and we look forward to collaborating with MathWorks more in the future."

"Prior to the integration, joint customers would download Barchart's data to a file and then import the data into MATLAB, preventing the creation of automated analyses," says Stuart Kozola, Finance
Product Manager at MathWorks. "MATLAB users can now access high quality market data that they can query and import directly into their investment and risk management models and they can also focus only on the data those models need. Not only does is speed up the development and back testing of new investment strategies, it also enables automation of daily reporting and the creation of interactive dashboards that update with the market or with new data queries."

To learn more about Barchart's integration into MATLAB and to view available functionality and examples, please visit this webpage (www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/68211-barchart-ondemand-for-matlab). And, to learn more about Barchart OnDemand, please visit www.barchart.com/ondemand.

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Birst Introduces Smart Analytics, Powered by Infor Coleman AI

29 January 2019

Birst introduced its Smart Analytics family of solutions, powered by Infor Coleman AI.

Birst Smart Analytics is a new set of AI-enabled capabilities that elevate organizations above traditional reports and dashboards, using machine learning algorithms to power intelligent insights not previously available to business users. Built with patented technologies, Birst Smart Analytics delivers automated and personalized insights and recommendations that transform the Business Intelligence (BI) experience from descriptive (what is happening) to diagnostic (why is it happening) and predictive (what will happen).

Smart Insights, the first in this series of capabilities, empowers business users to tap into the power of data science and instantly understand the variables driving their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Requiring no specialized expertise, Smart Insights helps business users find meaningful relationships between a given KPI and countless business variables, and then automatically generate visualizations and dashboards that explain the KPI’s behavior.

The dashboards generated by Smart Insights follow Birst’s Value-Based Design (VBD) methodology, which encompasses best practices for driving meaningful business outcomes with analytics. This means that the insights produced are more impactful because they prioritize the attributes that have the greatest impact on particular KPIs.

Additional capabilities that Birst plans to introduce, in the Smart Analytics family, include Anomaly Detection, Natural Language Generation/Querying (NLG/NLQ), and Intelligent Alerting, among others.

“AI is completely changing the way that people work and interact with data,” said Brad Peters, SVP and General Manager of Birst. “Starting with Smart Insights, our Smart Analytics solutions will help expand the reach of BI more broadly than ever before. Business users will take advantage of capabilities that until now had been available only to highly skilled data scientists. They’ll gain insights from data in a faster and more scalable way – often discovering relationships among data that they may not even have considered.”

Better Decisions with Smart Insights

Using the Birst platform’s robust semantic layer (a common set of business definitions across analytic instances), Smart Insights can provide more personalized, trusted and actionable intelligence than
competing solutions.

“The automated reports provided by competing solutions are quite generic and are prone to presenting random insights without much context or meaning,” Peters said. “Birst Smart Insights, on the other hand, helps business users provide context to the data by selecting areas of interest that result in much more valuable and relevant insights. The real value of AI in analytics is not in automating, but in augmenting the decision-making process, and that is what we’re doing with Smart Insights.”

Specialty’s Café & Bakery, which operates more than 50 restaurants in California, Washington and Illinois, is looking to use Birst’s Smart Insights capability to drive decisions related to product development and selection, inventories, staffing and more, to attract and keep customers.

“With Birst Smart Insights, our business users are automatically presented with deeper, root-cause analysis without having to depend on an analyst or a data scientist,” said Matt Riley, Lead Data Warehouse Engineer at Specialty’s Café & Bakery. “We can uncover reasons why labor costs are high this week, for example. Or, we can make smarter menu recommendations to our ecommerce customers. Birst automatically finds relationships hidden in our data and presents them to our decision makers in easy-to-understand dashboards. And because Machine Learning is built into the Birst platform, we don’t have to hire data scientists or bring in other tools such as R or Python to discover insights.”

Further, with the Networked BI capabilities of the Birst platform, business users can bring in their own local data, link it to analytic instances across the corporate network, and apply Smart Insights to this extended data set to get a more complete picture of what’s driving business performance.

Ultimately, Birst Smart Insights significantly reduces the barrier to finding new insights, enabling more business users to make better decisions without having to rely on experts. With AI, Smart Insights gives business users the power to harness the intelligence of their organizations and their data.

Summary: Key Features of Birst Smart Insights

- Discovers meaningful relationships between business attributes and measures, and KPIs, at a scale and speed greater than previously possible
- Automatically creates new dashboards and reports, following Value-Based Design principles
- Delivers personalized results, based on dashboard context, including applied and implied filters (security) from the governance layer
- Finds insights across the entire Birst semantic layer (i.e., analyzes all related data, including networked data or end-user-blended data)

Infor Coleman AI

Infor Coleman is a powerful artificial intelligence platform designed specifically for business users – built upon a foundation of industry-specific data. At any given moment, it can help with executing tasks, recommending next-best sales offers, and even predicting maintenance issues and adjusting production schedules accordingly. The platform is named after the inspiring physicist and mathematician Katherine Coleman Johnson, whose trail-blazing work helped U.S. astronauts land on the moon, Coleman represents a giant leap for artificial intelligence at scale.

Additional Resources

- Register for the Birst Smart Analytics online product launch event, which will air, live, at 10 a.m., Pacific Time, on Thursday, Jan. 31.
CIMdata PLM Industry Summary

- Hear from executives and experts about Birst’s vision for AI-powered BI
- See a live demonstration of Smart Analytics, powered by Coleman AI
- Learn how a leading retailer is taking customer experience to the next level with Birst Smart Analytics
- Learn about Birst co-founder Brad Peters’ and Birst’s unique vision for using machine learning automation to bring the power of analytics and BI to business users.
- Read the Birst blog, “How AI is Lowering the Barrier to Entry for BI and Analytics.”

**B&R MapleSim Connector simplifies model-based machine development**

23 January 2019

B&R simplifies model-based machine development with the new B&R MapleSim Connector. It considerably reduces the time spent modeling machine components. Machine functions are easy to program and deploy. B&R MapleSim Connector is seamlessly integrated in the B&R Automation Studio environment.

B&R MapleSim Connector makes it efficient for B&R customers to integrate the MapleSim tool from Maplesoft. MapleSim creates a highly accurate, dynamic model of the machine based on CAD data in STEP format. All forces and torques are modeled with great precision, allowing the model to be used as a digital twin for component sizing. The physical model is also available as a functional mock up unit for virtual commissioning of the machine software in Automation Studio. This helps avoid the risk of costly design errors.

**Efficient use of digital twins**

B&R MapleSim Connector offers two export functions for efficient use of digital twins in the development process. On the one hand, it is possible to export simulation data to optimize the sizing of servo drives, motors and gearboxes using tools like ServoSoft. Alternatively, the model built in MapleSim can be exported as an FMI file, including the CAD data.

**Transfer models to hardware quickly**

The model built in MapleSim can be used as a simulation model in Automation Studio and transferred directly to the B&R control hardware. The result is hardware-in-the-loop simulation, where the machine's behavior is emulated in real time to create a controlled environment where the machine software can be tested safely. In this environment, all control parameters can be manipulated and the temperature behavior of the drive can be simulated. The behavior of the digital twin is visualized live in B&R Scene Viewer.
**CADbro 2019, a Powerful 3D CAD Viewer to Accelerate the Design Collaboration and Product Development**

28 January 2019

ZWSOFT announced the availability of CADbro 2019, a cloud-supported 3D CAD viewer that enables users to view 3D models on the go and on any device, aiming to accelerate design collaboration and product development.

With CADbro 2019, users from different departments can simultaneously view and annotate files of 25+ formats, as well as analyze the manufacturability of product structure and assembly.

**Value-added CADbro Cloud**

The newly added CADbro cloud supports uploading, management, and sharing of 3D models anytime anywhere. It aligns your teams without extra complex CAD/CAM solutions.

No downloads, installations, license keys, service packs or compatibility issues - everyone can open the files, check the section view, show/hide components, measure the distance via one link. For security, users can also set the password and validity to protect the data.

**Enhanced 3D Viewing Experience**

Besides supporting 25+ mainstream file formats, CADbro 2019 also got improved in the import quality of Quick View. Now, CADbro has better performance for complex and large-size 3D models’ visualization.

It not only enables users to import graphic data including shape, face and edge, but also allows selecting, measuring and adding dimensions in graphic data.

**Updated Comparison Analysis**

The updated solid part comparison can intuitively display the modifications and easily export the results.

A few usability updates are deployed to make our platform more powerful and versatile than ever, like more types of view addition in 2D drawing, more dimension types output in 3D PDF, DWG file import with 3D model, etc.

“This with this simple, interactive and intuitive 3D viewer, 3D design and collaboration become easier, and the production and profit margins are raised,” said Kingdom Lin, Vice President of ZWSOFT.

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**Cisco Data Center Goes Anywhere Your Data Is**

29 January 2019

Application innovation is at the heart of the digital economy. A new era of apps is redefining what data centers are and need to be capable of supporting. Because today, the data center is no longer a fixed place. It exists wherever data is created, processed and used. That is why Cisco is announcing a new architecture that extends the data center to everywhere that data lives and everywhere applications are deployed.

To bring this “data center anywhere” vision to life, Cisco is introducing a range of innovations across
networking, hyperconvergence, security and automation. They include:

- The expansion of ACI into the cloud with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure environments
- The extension of HyperFlex into branch offices and remote locations to power applications at the edge
- Enhancements to CloudCenter to help customers manage the lifecycle of applications across multiple cloud environments
- A radically simpler way for customers to buy and manage the technology across the entire data center architecture, via a single Enterprise Agreement.

“Enterprises should be able to deploy applications based on the needs of their business, not the limitations of their technology,” said Roland Acra, senior vice president and general manager, Data Center Business Group, Cisco. “Customers want to deploy applications and manage data across a range of diverse platforms, from on-premises to cloud-based. That is why we are taking the ‘center’ out of the data center. Today, Cisco is helping our customers expand their reach into every cloud, every data center, and every branch.”

“BT adopted Cisco ACI as the basis for our newly launched SD-Fabric managed service to extend SDN capabilities into the data center. With ACI, we can offer customers full automation, central policy control and built-in security,” said Adrian Comley, general manager, Dynamic Network Services, Global Services, BT. “We’re working with Cisco as it extends ACI policy to AWS and Microsoft Azure cloud services. With Cisco we’re enabling customers to rapidly deploy fabric extensions and provision applications anywhere with a repeatable, proven design for operational simplicity and better security.”

**New Data Center Innovation**

Cisco is delivering on its new data center vision in three ways:

- **ACI available in AWS and Azure**: Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) is Cisco’s intent-based networking solution for the data center. It delivers operational simplicity, application agility and protection in the data center — all delivered in a uniquely open approach that integrates with all hypervisors and container frameworks on which applications are deployed. With ACI Anywhere, that journey extends ACI to any workload, any location, any cloud. Virtual ACI already supports bare metal clouds and remote edge locations. And now with the new Cloud ACI capabilities, Cisco extends automation, management, and security to AWS and Microsoft Azure by fully integrating with their Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) environments.

- **HyperFlex for Branch**: Deploying hyperconverged infrastructure to multiple sites in order to provide distributed computing at a global scale can be a complex task. HyperFlex with Cisco Intersight now allows customers to seamlessly extend computing and storage from their core data centers to the edges of their operations. It does this with flexible scalability and the unmatched ease-of-use of cloud-powered systems management. HyperFlex now delivers data center-class application performance for digital innovation in branch offices and remote sites, enabling analytics and intelligent services at the enterprise edge.

- **CloudCenter Suite**: The operational complexity and burgeoning cost of managing applications across multiple public and private clouds is a growing challenge for IT teams. The new CloudCenter Suite now features full application lifecycle management, greater workflow
automation, and significantly enhanced cost optimization and governance. Finally, the new suite is also much easier to consume, with simplified deployment, tiered pricing and a new SaaS offering.

**New Data Center Enterprise Agreement**
Cisco is making it easier than ever for customers to buy its data center technology with the new Cisco Enterprise Agreement. Customers can now take advantage of a single standardized three- or five-year licensing agreement across seven suites, including ACI, HyperFlex, Intersight and Tetration. The Cisco EA provides customers with a choice in deployment models and license portability across physical, virtual or cloud deployments. It lets customers have access to what they need, when and where they need it, available from their preferred channel partner.

**Cross-domain Integrations**
Cisco is integrating ACI with the application layer and the campus. Now, ACI integrates with AppDynamics to correlate app performance with network health. It also integrates with Cisco DNA Center and the Identity Services Engine to deliver end-to-end identity-based policy and access control between users or devices on campus and applications or data anywhere. These integrations are the latest step on Cisco’s journey to create the industry’s first multi-domain architecture. The goal is to reinvent enterprise infrastructure as a unified system that unlocks innovation by simplifying the unprecedented complexity of modern IT.

**Availability, Services, and Support**
- Virtual ACI and Cloud ACI will be available in Q2CY19
- HyperFlex 4.0 with Cisco Insight will be available in Q2CY19
- Cisco CloudCenter Suite subscription on-premises will be available in Q1CY19; SaaS version is planned for availability in Q1CY19 in North America, and Q2CY19 in Europe.
- New Cisco Enterprise Agreements will orderable mid-March.
- Cisco and its partners offer a full lifecycle of services to help customers streamline the journey to modernized data center architectures.
  - Cisco DevNet developer resources for ACI are available now.

**coMakeIT Launches Autotaak, an AI-Powered, Web-Based ALM Platform**
31 January 2019
coMakeIT announced the launch of Autotaak, its new ALM (Application Lifecycle Management) platform.

Autotaak is a web-based, integrated ALM platform that enables end-to-end automation of application development to deployment pipeline. This AI-powered platform uses bots to automate all aspects of application lifecycle from product conceptualization, release & sprint planning, to development, integration, testing, and deployment. The key features and benefits of Autotaak include:

- Plug-and-play integration of software development and delivery tools including Jira, Git Hub,
Jenkins, Sonarcube, & Docker

- Comprehensive support for agile workflow management including sprint backlog, planning, & burndown
- Automation of workflow across the application lifecycle including project creation, resource allocation, triggering builds, execution of test scripts, and pushing code to containers
- Dashboard to visualize workflow and application progress in real-time and track key metrics

Speaking on the sidelines before his keynote address at the Agile, Testing, and Devops Showcase event in Amsterdam, coMakeIT’s CEO Steven ten Napel announced launch of this product and stated:

“Majority of software businesses struggle with manual processes and lack of integration between development and deployment, which continue to be operational silos. With increasing business demand for continuous releases, software organizations must achieve integration and automation of all processes across the application lifecycle. Autotaak provides AI-powered automation, single-point access to key metrics, and visualized workflow, which enables software businesses to increase their release cadence, reliability, and quality.

We have invested significant time and resources in developing Autotaak, to help our customers fulfill their technology and business goals. This is a clear demonstration of our continued commitment to deliver tangible business value and help our customers become better in what they do.”

With an exclusive focus on serving software businesses, coMakeIT is relied upon as a strategic partner by innovative software companies from Netherlands, UK, and Australia, in diverse domains including BFSI, Supply chain and Logistics, ERP, and Education.

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CORTIME premieres robust design at SolidWorks World 19

30 January 2019

CORTIME will unveil their SolidWorks-embedded robust design analysis at SolidWorks World 2019, being held February 10-13, 2019 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas, Texas, USA.

Robust design is used to determine the impact of controllable and uncontrollable factors on your design. Optimal designs can be “fragile” in terms of variation of material properties and operating conditions, however, robust design accounts for the variation to avoid cliffs of optimal performance. This means that you will be able to quantify the risk of design failure and avoid nasty surprises later in process.

On a practical level, this means that the R&D Engineer can use the probability of failures as objectives, when optimizing their designs. On the bottom line, this means fewer design failures and a shortened development cycle.

“CORTIME has completed the circle in creating the full package of design exploration tools. Essential questions: “How can I simplify my design? Have I found the best design? Will the design fail once it hits production?” CORTIME answers these questions for R&D Engineers,” says CORTIME CEO, Rasmus Høtoft.

VELUX is a world leading manufacturer of roof windows and skylights and is currently using
CORTIME to improve the performance of their window designs. So, while VELUX is already reaping the benefits of design optimization in CORTIME, they are excited for the prospect of adding robust design to their design process.

“At VELUX, we are constantly striving to raise the bar in terms of product performance and usability. CORTIME’s robust design analysis can potentially reduce our development time and costs by assessing the risk of design failure early in our design process,” says Michael Galsgård Holm, R&D Engineer at VELUX.

Come by booth 228 at SolidWorks World 2019 and see how CORTIME provides you the whole, integrated design exploration suite including sensitivity analysis, design optimization and robust design.

Creative Fields Releases CF-MESH+ 2.2

29 January 2019

Creative Fields, a provider of state-of-the-art CFD meshing software, is proud to announce the release of CF-MESH+ 2.2. CF-MESH+ is a fully automated and easy-to-use CFD meshing software solution that features a powerful set of tools and functionalities for generation of quality CFD meshes in arbitrary complex geometries of industrial interest.

CF-MESH+ 2.2 is the latest CFD meshing software version developed by Creative Fields. It comprises advanced meshing workflows with an easy-to-use front-end interface allowing for superior user experience and efficiency. The implemented methodology generates meshes with millions of cells within minutes for geometries of real-world interest.

“We are proud to present to our users the latest achievements in CF-MESH+. Our focus was on helping users without much expertise in CFD meshing generate meshes with high-quality boundary layers in real-world industrial geometries.” said Franjo Juretic, Head of Development and Managing Director at Creative Fields.

CF-MESH+ 2.2 features advanced meshing capabilities that allow generation of industrial quality meshes in fully automatic fashion. The meshing setup is designed to be simple and intuitive with an easy-to-navigate graphical user interface for novice users. The volume mesh density can be controlled locally by using a multitude of refinement sources available in CF-MESH+.

- Boundary layers: Automatic robust generation of smooth boundary layers is a very powerful feature in CF-MESH+. A simplified boundary layer setup & iterative boundary layer creation procedure is available where the user only prescribes the desired boundary layer number and thickness parameters.
- Refinement: Simple creation of refinement regions in order to reduce the number of iterations required to generate the desired mesh is provided where the regions can be boundaries, selected patches/faces/edges/vertices, primitive objects, or auxiliary surface meshes.
- Anisotropic meshing: Object-based anisotropic settings and anisotropic grading are available.
- Gaps and thin features: Global and local options are available to preserve or remove cells in thin gaps.
• Feature edges: Support of feature edges that need to be captured in the mesh.
• Robust: Tolerant to poor surface quality. CF-MESH+ performs surface wrapping and volume meshing at the same time while requiring minimum user input.
• Parallelisation: Most of the meshing algorithms are SMP parallelised for maximum performance.
• Input: Triangulated surface input formats: STL, STLB, FMS.
• Meshing Algorithms: Cartesian 2D and 3D meshes, hexahedral meshes, tetrahedral meshes and arbitrary polyhedral meshes.
• Output mesh formats: OpenFOAM, Fluent, CGNS, AVL Fire.

A short video illustrating the advanced boundary layer technology in CF-MESH+ is available here: https://youtu.be/LV5J80Uk5uA.

DeSL Releases Newest Update Digital Planning Board
29 January 2019

Discover e-Solutions Ltd. (DeSL) is set to release a new module to its suite of PLM software, Digital Planning Board. Digital Planning Board is a revolutionary centralized tool that empowers the creative aspects of the business, while harnessing financial data to make informed decisions.

Digital Planning Board is a central hub that ties large amounts of data together in an easy to use visual tool to meet the needs of the design, brand management, tech design, merchandising and sales teams. The newest enhancement offers a more versatile platform to create mood boards, analyze financial merchandising plans, and manage live line sheets.

Designers can start the design phase by developing digital mood boards with real-time editing access, customized layers, and accurate color capabilities. Their line sheets will never become outdated. Edits and changes to color, patterns, and images are made instantly.

Digital Planning Board also empowers Brand Managers and Merchandisers to streamline seasonal line development by visually arranging and segmenting collections by categories such as delivery window, style, fabric, and color. Financial teams can analyze the merch plans by reviewing and receiving instant margin status tracking with the module’s live connection to backend financials.

DeSL’s Digital Planning Board is revolutionizing the fashion industry’s approach to the design and development process. To learn more about Digital Planning Board, visit DeSL or request a demo with a DeSL representative.
New Camstar Electronics Suite provides game-changing smart manufacturing capabilities for electronics and mechanical processes

30 January 2019

Siemens announced today the introduction of Camstar™ Electronics Suite software, an innovative manufacturing execution system (MES) for electronics. Building on the successful enterprise-level platform for integrated circuit (IC) manufacturing, this powerful, configurable and scalable MES solution enables printed circuit board (PCB) and box assemblers to meet traceability requirements, improve efficiency levels and control manufacturing operations through direct Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity with machines and production lines. Expanding on Siemens' digital innovation platform, Camstar Electronics Suite creates a true digital thread to empower electronics companies to further their digitalization strategy in line with Industry 4.0. By closing the loop between engineering and the shop floor, and enabling quick reactions to design modifications, manufacturers can shorten product lifecycles, increase production complexities and improve quality across the entire manufacturing lifecycle.

Camstar Electronics Suite activates the seamless flow of product and business data between product lifecycle management (PLM), enterprise resource planning (ERP) and shop floor execution through an integrated digital thread, enabling faster and streamlined change cycles.

"Siemens made an important step towards helping electronics manufacturers improve operations performance when they acquired Camstar, but by adding capabilities from Mentor's Valor™ Electronics Manufacturing Solutions software they can now drive a new level of productivity, throughput, and quality for both PCB, mechanical and box-build manufacturing," said Greg Gorbach, vice president, digitization and IoT, ARC Advisory Group. "With Mentor's Valor edge data acquisition technology and tight integration with Teamcenter to support a robust digital twin and digital thread, the Camstar Electronics Suite now enables customers in the electronics industry to rapidly adapt to design changes and to speed production by directly connecting with specialized machines and production lines."

Siemens PLM Software continues to grow its digital innovation platform and look for new ways to expand on the most robust digital twin. This recent collaboration between Siemens' manufacturing operations management (MOM) software and Mentor technology has created a unique solution, which covers the complete end-to-end mechatronics manufacturing process. Camstar Electronics Suite activates the seamless flow of product and business data between product lifecycle management (PLM), enterprise resource planning (ERP) and shop floor execution through an integrated digital thread, enabling faster and streamlined change cycles. Using this single data source, closed-loop feedbacks from production to design and engineering departments can result in improved quality levels and shorter new product introduction (NPI) processes and go-to-market times.

Siemens' technology development benefits from the fact that the company also has advanced operational factories which can be early adopters of Siemens innovations. "The Camstar Electronics Suite introduces a layer of value that we could never reach with our existing set of disconnected tools, even with custom integration. Furthermore, the inclusion of Valor IoT data acquisition in the suite has drastically simplified the deployment across our assembly lines," stated Hermann Kraus, MES project lead at Siemens Fürth. "We have already taken the first step of implementation, optimizing material flow with Valor Material Management. We are currently introducing the second step that will deliver a true one-stop-shop solution for Electronics Manufacturing management, covering all process areas and integrated with PLM and ERP," he added.
"This collaboration with Mentor's Valor technology along with the introduction of Camstar Electronics Suite further expands our positioning in the electronics market and fortifies our leadership as industry trendsetters," said René Wolf, senior vice president of Manufacturing Operations Management for Siemens PLM Software. "In an era where mass customization and rapid time-to-market determine the ability of electronics companies to succeed, manufacturing processes must be flexible and smart enough to accommodate rapid change in product requirements, while optimizing production efficiency and improving the overall product quality. This is exactly the kind of innovation that the new Camstar Electronics Suite delivers to the market."

For further information on Camstar Electronics Suite, please see [www.siemens.com/mom/camstar-electronics-suite](http://www.siemens.com/mom/camstar-electronics-suite).

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**New EFI Optitex eLearning Platform Offers an On-Demand, Unique Training Platform and Added Value Content**

30 January 2019

EFI™ Optitex® continues its commitment to providing added value to its customers with the new EFI Optitex eLearning Platform, powered by Electronics For Imaging, Inc.

This unique, on-demand training platform features how-to guides, videos and podcasts, as well as full eLearning courses that can be purchased individually or as part of a complete EFI Optitex training package. Users can progress through courses in an eLearning environment that provides job-specific training for patternmakers, marker makers, technical designers, 3D designers and more across 10 different Optitex technologies.

Customers are already successfully using the platform and are receiving significant value for money. The eLearning platform’s $300 annual subscription fee makes it a cost-effective, high-value solution for EFI Optitex software users across the globe.

Moreover, major players in the textile industry including apparel brands, design houses, suppliers and retailers, can improve the on-boarding process for staff, thanks to the eLearning site’s easy-to-use, detailed training platform. The new eLearning offering has far greater importance than educating current industry professionals, it is also shaping the next generation of professionals.

“The eLearning courses are terrific,” said Margaret McWilliams, R&D at Margaret McWilliams Studio, a design business in Frederick, Maryland, that develops workflow solutions to bring tailoring back into the mainstream using accurate 3D prototyping based on 2D patterns. “EFI Optitex’s unique workflow and the courses’ on-demand availability make it worthwhile to go through all of them. Unexpectedly useful capabilities that improve the patterns coming out of my workflow have emerged thanks to the detailed explanations eLearning has to offer.

“I see this essential tool as a turning point in my work,” she added. “Through the online courses offered on the eLearning platform I was able to manipulate the abilities of the Optitex software with very good results, which affects my entire workflow.”

The eLearning platform also provides Optitex certifications upon completion of critical stages of the training program. As a result, it not only empowers knowledge among industry professionals, it also
confirms that individuals have indeed mastered the innovative tools that shape the textile industry.

*Education to facilitate the apparel industry’s CAD transformation*

This newly launched eLearning content reflects EFI Optitex’s longstanding commitment to maximize value for users with coaching, training, advising and consulting. EFI Optitex products – along with the training provided – give businesses the significant advantage of being able to perfect their garments before cutting or sewing the first piece of fabric for faster cycles and products that better fit consumer needs.

Always glancing at the future, EFI Optitex will actively continue to empower knowledge and assist industry professionals in gaining new and critical skills that will contribute to the optimization of the supply chain in the most cost-effective way possible.


*New Possibilities for Digital Twins Emerge with the Integration of Tools*

29 January 2019

Maplesoft and B&R have announced the new B&R MapleSim Connector that will help simplify model-based machine development. It considerably reduces the time spent modeling machine components. With the new connector, machine functions become easy to program and deploy. B&R MapleSim Connector is seamlessly integrated in the B&R Automation Studio environment.

The B&R MapleSim Connector makes it efficient for B&R customers to integrate MapleSim, the modeling and simulation tool from Maplesoft. MapleSim creates a highly accurate, dynamic model of the machine based directly on CAD data. This model can then be used for accurate motor sizing, as well testing and comparing different designs. Additionally, the model can be used within Automation Studio to support the virtual commissioning workflow. This helps avoid the risk of costly design errors by finding them earlier in the commissioning process.

Efficient use of digital twins

The B&R MapleSim Connector offers two streamlined export functions for efficient use of digital twins in the development process. First, a model's simulation data - containing accurate estimates of a motion's required torque and forces - can be exported in a format directly readable by SERVOSoft. This gives it the information it needs to "right-size" the servo drives, motors and gearboxes. Secondly, the model itself, along with its CAD visualization, can be exported to Automation Studio for control code testing.

Transfer models to hardware quickly

Once in Automation Studio, the model can be simulated and transferred directly to the B&R control hardware. The result is hardware-in-the-loop simulation, where the machine's behavior is emulated in real time to create a controlled environment where the machine software can be tested safely. In this environment, all control parameters can be manipulated and the temperature behavior of the drive can be simulated. The behavior of the digital twin is visualized live in B&R Scene Viewer.

"Engineers can use Digital Twins to save significant time and cost by finding design and controller code issues well before physical prototypes are built," said Kurt Zehetleitner, Group Leader, Engineering Software - Simulation and Digital Twin, B&R. "By including the visualization feedback within Automation Studio, the virtual machine's dynamic behaviour can be readily observed without having to
decipher it from plots and tag values - significantly improving the control code development process."
To learn more about how to benefit from Digital Twins using MapleSim, read the whitepaper.

Revit 2019.2 new features connect data, cloud, and customers
16 January 2019

The Revit product team is very excited to announce the release of Revit 2019.2 — the latest version of Revit — to current subscribers.
The Revit 2019.2 update reflects how Revit has evolved to more tightly connect you with your data and with others via the cloud and Autodesk BIM 360. We feel strongly that the future of design is inextricably connected to having BIM information in a data-centric cloud environment. With Autodesk BIM 360—a single platform that connects all project members and phases from design, to fabrication and pre-construction—project teams can access the right information at the right time. The direction of Revit development is to allow as many people as possible to participate in the BIM process and to improve your workflow and experience.

CONNECT

Several Revit 2019.2 new features provide easier access and a tighter integration with the BIM 360 platform to connect project teams, and create better multi-product workflows.

Cloud Models for Revit extends BIM 360 access

With a subscription to BIM 360 Design, multiple project team members can co-author Revit cloud models using Worksharing. We are excited to announce that you can now store non-Workshared models in a consistent way in the BIM 360 cloud platform. This is valuable for those cases where a model need not be workshared, and for individual users to store their data in the BIM 360 platform. Cloud Models for Revit is a new Revit 2019.2 feature and entitlement for Revit and Revit LT subscribers.

What’s the benefit of using cloud models? Revit models in BIM 360 are stored in a data format optimized for cloud storage and syncing. Cloud Models synchronize directly between BIM 360 and your desktop, facilitating faster and more efficient updates. That means no more uploading to share your projects with others. Extending the ability to work with this cloud-optimized format to individual users working on non-workshared models provides a consistent experience for all Revit users, including those using Revit LT, and makes it possible for the whole team to participate for better project delivery. For subscribers to BIM 360 Design, it’s a simple one-step action to make a Cloud Model a Workshared Cloud Model. Use tools like the BIM 360 Docs viewer to access data from anywhere and view and markup Revit models from any device.

Using cloud models is even easier now that you can navigate to and access your cloud models as they’re published to Revit Home, the new screen that opens when Revit starts, released with Revit 2019.1. If you are a subscriber to BIM 360 Design, you can now access and control publishing of both workshared and non-workshared cloud models all from Revit Home.

One click Revit version update with Cloud Model Upgrade

As if you need more convincing, here’s another reason to use cloud models. We all know updating
existing projects from older versions of Revit to the latest release can be a painful process. Timed with the release of Revit 2019.2 we’re delivering a preview of Cloud Model Upgrade, an automated and reliable solution that–with the push of a button–lets Project Admins in BIM 360 update projects stored as cloud models to later versions of Revit. Currently this capability supports upgrading Workshared cloud models from Revit 2018.3 to Revit 2019 data format. Cloud Model Upgrade makes it easier to use Revit features and enhancements as soon as they are available without having to manually update existing projects in older versions of the software. The Cloud Model Upgrade feature is now available as a technical preview for BIM 360 project admins and covered by the Autodesk Terms of Use for Trial Features.

Connecting civil engineers and architects with site collaboration workflow

Site Collaboration, the Civil 3D terrain to Revit topography workflow introduced in Revit 2019.1, delivers an even better experience for sharing data across Autodesk tools. Using BIM 360 Document Management and Autodesk Desktop Connector, the workflow lets you link topography from Civil 3D into Revit. With Revit 2019.2 new features you can also place building pads and sub-regions on complex surfaces. Using BIM 360 to help transfer site information and project location data between project teams, architects and civil engineers can save time and improve accuracy.

Extending the automation of the design-to-fabrication process for concrete structures

Working on top of Revit 2019.2, the Autodesk Structural Precast Extension for Revit 2019 Update 1 comes with new features for customers working on precast and cast-in-place concrete projects. To learn full details, read this dedicated post.

With Extended CAM Export*, you can better connect both cast-in-place and precast concrete projects to automatic fabrication processes. CAM Export lets you create Unitechnik and PXML files for:

- any selection of shape drive reinforcement
- assemblies containing structural solid wall or structural solid slab system families (including their reinforcement, built-in parts, contours and fabrication parameters), not split using Structural Precast for Revit
- assemblies containing loadable families that can host rebar, including their reinforcement, built-in parts, contours, and fabrication parameters.

Unitechnik 7.0 CAM Export* further automates the design-to-fabrication process with the capability to export the information associated with precast assemblies (such as Solid Walls, Solid Slabs, Hollow Core Slabs, and Girder Slabs) or rebar cages using Unitechnik 7.0. This format is supported in the same way Unitechnik 5.2, Unitechnik 6.0 and PXML 1.3 are supported, providing a consistent user experience.

CREATE

Revit 2019.2 new features also deliver on several Revit Idea page requests for enhancements that help you be more efficient in creating project data to capture design intent.

- Seeing what you’re doing is important and many of you have requested the ability to Zoom in schedules. Now you’ll be able to use familiar keyboard shortcuts to zoom in and more easily read small fonts in a large schedule view, especially valuable when using complex, high-density
characters such as kanji, or working with a very large schedule. You can zoom in and out within the schedule and see the zoom level with an indicator in schedule view.

- Another user request has been to be able to **move objects small distances**. Addressing this, the “too small on screen” blocking error has been removed, letting you now move elements the very small distances that are sometimes required.

- To help you generate more beautiful and higher quality images when you are using out-of-the-box materials, with **high resolution texture support**, Revit 2019.2 will automatically use the highest resolution texture.

**Create Custom Fabric Sheets** (CFS) using any collection of reinforcement (individual rebars, rebar sets, free-form rebar sets, area reinforcement). You can automatically convert the reinforcement for the supported precast elements into custom fabric sheets. This feature speeds up the precast concrete modeling process and further automates design to fabrication.

To help **increase your modelling speed** on precast projects, Revit includes new precast hollow-core slabs (HCS) families with 13 additional types of precast hollow-core slabs, offering additional void geometries and strand patterns. (This functionality comes with the **Structural Precast for Revit Update**).

**MEP fabrication modeling and design elements enhancements and improvements**

For MEP Fabrication users, Revit 2019.2 new features include several improvements that make it easier to **work with branched connections** by streamlining the connection of off-center taps, and auto-updating tapped connection elements. We have also improved the behavior related to splitting duct and pipe to ensure expected end treatment as you detail your models.

Delivering on a highly requested item from the Revit Ideas page, with **MEP routed design elements**, you can now directly edit the top elevation and bottom elevation properties of cable tray, duct, and conduit elements, facilitating easier model modification and coordination.

**Move to Revit 2019.2**

With continual development happening behind the scenes, we’re growing and evolving Revit in multiple areas at the same time. Delivering on user requests submitted via the **Revit Ideas page** and inspired by the vision set out in the **Revit road map**, Revit is constantly evolving to lead the way in BIM.

Siemens enhances **Digital Innovation Platform with faster modeling and more accurate simulations in latest release of Simcenter 3D**

29 January 2019

Manufacturing is changing with the advent of new materials and production methods, making it more challenging than ever before to ensure that as-manufactured parts match the as-designed shape. In the latest release of Simcenter 3D, Siemens PLM Software introduces new, cutting-edge simulation capabilities, stronger connections to the broader Simcenter™ portfolio and an expansion of the integrated multi-disciplinary environment to cover an extended simulation solution footprint, which will help engineers reduce the time, cost and effort required to predict product performance. The simulation solution has also been updated to include simulation of the additive manufacturing process and to cover
areas such as transmission simulation, aerostructure margin of safety analysis and fluid-structure interaction.

Simcenter 3D delivers a unified, scalable, open and extensible environment for 3D CAE with connections to design, 1D simulation, test, and data management. Simcenter 3D speeds the simulation process by combining best-in-class geometry editing, associative simulation modeling and multi-discipline solutions embedded with industry expertise.

"In order to build accurate digital twins of their products, companies are demanding more innovations in their simulation software," said Jan Leuridan, Senior Vice President, Simulation & Test Solutions, Siemens PLM Software. "We are continually innovating new ways to streamline simulation processes and deliver greater accuracy. This release represents a major milestone in integration of more physics and technologies into the Simcenter 3D environment, so our customers can predict real world performance."

Simcenter 3D can now automate the creation and simulation of transmission simulation models within a single, integrated environment. Integrating this traditionally multi-step, error-prone process into a single tool can reduce the engineer's effort by up to 80%, leading to a more efficient simulation process.

"Creating a complex transmission multibody model is a very time-consuming process, often requiring the use of multiple software tools," said Horim Yang, Senior Research Engineer, Hyundai Motor Company. "Simcenter 3D is well suited for our engineering purposes and can reduce the overall time spent on transmission modeling and simulation."

The latest release of Simcenter 3D offers new ties to the digital thread through synergies with the Simcenter portfolio. New connections between Simcenter 3D and Simcenter™ STAR-CCM+™ software enable aero-acoustics and aero-vibro-acoustic simulations, allowing customers to eliminate the source of unwanted noise for improved cabin comfort. Simcenter 3D can also connect with the routing application within NX™ software to obtain electrical cord layouts and connection points. Simcenter 3D can then simulate electrical cord deformation within moving assemblies so engineers can make sure wire harnesses don't get caught on moving parts and adjust as needed to cord routing.

Other new features of Simcenter 3D 2019.1 include:

- Simcenter 3D Aerostructures can now streamline the end-to-end aircraft structural analysis and margin of safety process by up to 30 percent.
- Topology Optimization is now more robust, easier to use, and adds design objectives or constraints for structural integrity of a part when subjected to critical loads.
- A new additive manufacturing process simulation tool helps manufacturers achieve a quality print that matches the desired shape on the first try, saving enormous resources, cost, and time.

For further information on the latest release of Simcenter 3D, please see the [Simcenter Community blog](https://www.simcenter.com/simcenter-community).