



ASTRIUM

Europe's largest space company and a leader in the global space industry, specializing in the creation and development of satellite equipment, space navigation tools, and more.

Industry: Aerospace
Geography: Europe

Deployment Summary

- Integration of product data management (PDM) systems enables employees to access product data in real time.
- TIBCO's solution verifies data transportation among systems.
- Publish-and-subscribe technology enables employees to receive alerts related to products of interest.

Benefits

- Integration unifies disparate systems of merged companies.
- Real-time access to project-related data enables employees to work more efficiently.
- Easier collaboration with peers and coordination with suppliers yield increased productivity.
- TIBCO's solution allows for gradual integration without interrupting data flow during implementation.



"We didn't even calculate the money this project helped us to save, because we didn't have any option other than integrating our systems. After research, we saw that EAI is the right direction and TIBCO's offering, with its broad product portfolio, was the best solution for us."

Manfred Hocher, Head of Application Systems, Astrium

Real-Time Business Helps Astrium Soar

Space exploration has profoundly affected many areas of human achievement, such as scientific research, military strategy and security, telecommunications, and business. These opportunities would not have been possible without the companies that supply the powerful equipment and resources necessary to withstand the conditions of outer space. Astrium, Europe's leading space company, provides businesses and organizations in the aerospace industry with satellites and equipment they need to embark on some of the world's most physically and intellectually challenging journeys.

Formed in 2000, Astrium is the result of a merger between Matra Marconi Space and the space division of DaimlerChrysler Aerospace, which itself is an amalgamation of prominent space companies such as French Matra Espace and British Marconi Space Systems. Astrium offers a wealth of products and services ranging from avionic and electronic systems to satellite platforms and ground systems, and has nearly 6,500 employees across Europe.

Despite the size of the company, employees of Astrium used to rely on e-mail as their primary collaboration tool for engineering activities. Employees exchanged large files at a slow rate and made changes and updates without a way to automatically notify other employees. In addition, Astrium's projects with organizations such as the European Space Agency (ESA) require collaboration with various subcontractors for development work. To streamline internal engineering efforts and enable the company to better collaborate with partners and suppliers, Astrium decided to seek a business integration solution.

TIBCO bridges communication gaps with a robust solution

After researching possibilities such as point-to-point integration and the creation of a single, large enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, Astrium chose to implement enterprise application integration (EAI) and business-to-business (B2B) integration to address its integration requirements. According to Manfred Hocher, head of application systems,

business integration was the only way to solve Astrium's collaboration challenges. "After researching the scope of our needs, we knew that enterprise application integration was the answer. We couldn't use point-to-point integration or build a giant ERP system from scratch," Hocher says. "One of the key benefits of EAI is its step-by-step nature. I can integrate applications or processes whenever I need to, without interrupting the data flow in the enterprise."

Before choosing an integration tool, Hocher ran test implementations of various vendors' solutions and decided to partner with TIBCO Software Inc., a leading enabler of real-time business. "We performed test installations with products from vendors such as IBM, webMethods, and SeeBeyond, but we chose TIBCO," Hocher says. "In the end, TIBCO's was the only solution that met our process management requirements and helped us effectively integrate our systems to increase productivity and efficiency throughout the entire company."

Astrium product management efficiency soars to new heights

At Astrium, the sharing of up-to-date product data throughout the development cycle is crucial to the success of each project. The deployment of TIBCO's solution aimed to integrate the company's product development processes by unifying PDM systems across all European offices. "A fully collaborative engineering environment would give way to faster communication among all of our offices, whether they are located in France, the United Kingdom,

or Germany," Hocher says. "Having easy access to the right collaboration tools translates into increased productivity on a daily basis. And increased productivity leads our company to become more competitive."

Astrium utilized TIBCO's solution to integrate its various PDM systems, which consist of a wide range of both design and technical management tools. Using Astrium's existing portal technology, employees can easily view important technical data through a consistent interface.

TIBCO unifies employees with a collaborative engineering environment

Astrium employees now benefit from a collaborative engineering environment that promotes fast information access and rapid results. Previously, when the company implemented a point-to-point integration for sharing 3-D modeling information across the enterprise, employees were never sure whether data was correctly transported from system to system. TIBCO's solution has created a reliable, collaborative environment in which the verification of data transport between systems and end users is automatic. Employees can be sure that critical information has reached its intended destination and that business processes are smoother and more efficient.

In addition, publish-subscribe technology powered by TIBCO enables employees to receive alerts related to the products on which they are working. For example, if a change occurs at any stage in product development, information is sent immediately to all relevant users.

"One of the key benefits of TIBCO's solution is that it removes the communication boundaries that once existed between different teams."

Manfred Hocher, Head of Application Systems, Astrium

This feature allows employees to react to change quickly and make the necessary adjustments to project schedules or resources. "One of the key benefits of TIBCO's solution is that it removes the communication boundaries that once existed between different teams," Hocher says. "Projects are no longer defined by specific divisions or offices; everyone can contribute to a strategy as if they owned it from the start." Now, project collaboration takes place more effectively, and all individuals involved are aware of development updates.

Implementation of the solution has provided all Astrium employees and subcontractors with an easier, faster way to reach the same goal: high-quality space products created through more integrated and efficient product management processes. For Hocher, TIBCO's solution was the obvious choice. "EAI is the foundation of a successful integration project, and we knew that TIBCO would provide the broad range of products and excellent technical support that we needed. When it came to choosing a solution, we were certain that TIBCO's was the best option for us."



TIBCO Software Inc. (NASDAQ: TIBX) is the leading independent business integration software company in the world and a leading enabler of real-time business, helping companies become more cost-effective, more agile and more efficient. TIBCO has delivered the value of real-time business, what TIBCO calls The Power of Now®, to thousands of customers around the world and in a wide variety of industries.

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