

Aerospace and defense

DAHER-SOCATA

PLM supports global virtual, collaborative enterprise

Product

Teamcenter

Business challenges

Promote quality-based customer-satisfaction culture

Meet deadlines

Support worldwide development

Contain costs

Develop innovation and expertise

Keys to success

Central system for product information management

Standardized data, procedures and processes worldwide

Data security

Improved data exchange

Results

344 PLM users at 7 facilities

Optimized production times; accelerated engineering change process

One database managing 20 projects

Teamcenter unifies employees across Europe and the Americas in a single worldwide development strategy

Global presence

DAHER-SOCATA, a European original equipment manufacturer, has fostered business growth by establishing a global presence. Today DAHER-SOCATA is active in four business sectors: aerospace, defense, nuclear energy and automotive; and focuses on three areas of expertise: industrial production, services and transport. Its workforce – approximately 5,200 employees spread over 12 countries – shares the strong values on which the company was built: creativity, innovation, respect, trust, entrepreneurship and dynamism.

The DAHER-SOCATA division is a tier-one equipment manufacturer in the aerospace sector. It has made a name for itself in its three product lines: aerostructures, cabin comfort and services. DAHER-SOCATA has acquired expertise in handling both composite and metal materials and, thanks to this knowledge, develops products and innovative solutions for the leading companies in the sector. DAHER-SOCATA manages close to 100,000 square meters (over one million square feet) of engineering workspace distributed across seven specialized plants – five in France, one in Morocco and one in Mexico. An eighth plant will open soon in Australia.



PLM possibilities

For a number of years, DAHER-SOCATA evaluated the potential of product lifecycle management (PLM) for the company. PLM was seen to benefit four areas: capitalization, data security, communication and collaboration. Specifications for a PLM system were developed based on these benefit areas. This was followed by a consultation process with the various PLM vendors and finally by the selection of Teamcenter® software from Siemens PLM Software. The company's facility in Montrichard, France served as the pilot location for the deployment. The following year, three production facilities were also equipped with Teamcenter.

According to Eric Durand, Technical IT Department manager at DAHER-SOCATA,

Results *(continued)*

Tighter integration among employees across all departments

New facility brought online in only 18 months

“If we want to handle big contracts, we need to adopt a PLM approach.”

Alain Chapurlat
Quality Manager
DAHER-SOCATA



“Initially we did not have a true global vision, and our PLM was actually a form of very sophisticated electronic document management. Needless to say, we were underutilizing the solution. We reassessed our needs and methodologies with the support of PCO Technologies, an approved Siemens PLM Software distributor. Our ambition was to turn Teamcenter into an information system for the whole company.”

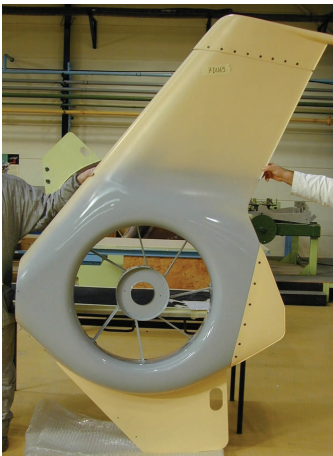
A new scope was defined. Instead of a multi-product and multi-sector solution, the PLM strategy was redesigned to serve as a single database for one sector, aerospace, over all its various locations (the production plants spread throughout the world). A key step was to win management over so that this could become a corporate project. Another was to set up a PLM team capable of expanding the use of the application and fully adapting it to users' expectations.

The business challenges, as defined at the time by the aerospace business division of DAHER-SOCATA, were as follows: to promote a customer-satisfaction culture based on product and process quality and respect for deadlines; to support the company's worldwide development; to contain costs; and to develop innovation and expertise.

Expanding the system

“If we want to handle big contracts, we need to adopt a PLM approach,” explains Alain Chapurlat, quality manager at DAHER-SOCATA. “Product requirements are becoming increasingly complex, in part because we have to take into account quality standards, which are extremely strict in the world of aerospace. In addition, we have to manage the diversity of our production plants in France and overseas, which was not the case in years past. Each has its own specialty, and even its own specificity, which helps us to remain competitive in terms of pricing.”

Teamcenter manages 20 ongoing projects, 317 different case files, 3,000 CAD files and 18,000 standards.





“We enjoy perfectly controlled document management in a single system, from their registration in the system to their validation.”

Eric Durand
Technical IT Department
Manager
DAHER-SOCATA

The entry point for the new PLM implementation is the management of standards, since this concerns all activities at every site. Having set up a single database helps in the management of standards. Computer-aided design (CAD) files – the most vital and critical files and the most disseminated across the various production sites – are now centralized and standardized with Teamcenter.

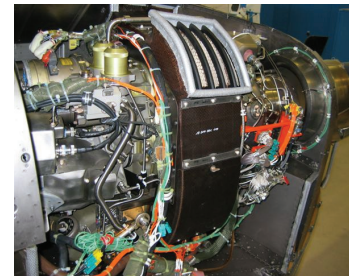
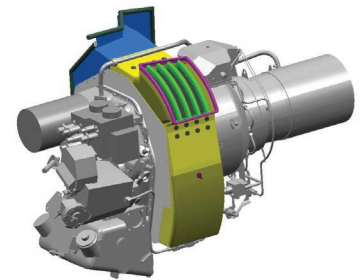
Eventually DAHER-SOCATA graduated its use of Teamcenter from document management to a genuine PLM application. It is now used in the management of standards; the management and validation of files from the engineering departments; the registration and validation of the engineering departments’ requests; and operational access at the Tangiers, Nogales, Toulouse, Luceau, Saint-Nazaire, Montrichard and Saint-Julien sites.

PLM at seven production sites, with another coming onboard

A number of departments throughout the company use the PLM system. Eighty percent of the engineering department staff now uses Teamcenter on a daily basis, along with 60 percent of the personnel in quality, 30 percent in processes, 10 percent in planning and 10 percent in purchasing. Another way of looking at the PLM implementation is that there are 344 users across seven production sites (soon to be eight). Teamcenter manages 20 ongoing projects, 317 different case files, 3,000 CAD files and 18,000 standards.

The PLM team, the key link between the users, now includes three members. “All are motivated by the challenge,” adds Durand. “Eventually, we should have five people supporting the other DAHER-SOCATA employees with our expertise, whether in terms of communication or by adapting the tool to their requirements.”

“Today, we are a plant employing 1,500 people, but no longer in one location,” says Nicolas Orance, the company’s development manager. “This year we opened a production facility in Mexico. In the span of 18 months we were able to find the site, erect the buildings, and transfer production lines from Morocco to Mexico, with 100 percent reliability and flexibility. The departments involved did not suffer any disruption, and we were even able to save 15 percent on transfer costs, such as travel costs and production launch costs.”



“PLM is a genuine decision-making tool, a management tool that is just as essential to us as our patents.”

Nicolas Orance
Development Manager
DAHER-SOCATA

Solutions/Services

Teamcenter
www.siemens.com/teamcenter

Customer's primary business

DAHER-SOCATA is a tier-one equipment and service supplier to the aerospace industry.
www.daher.com/cms/aerospace

Customer location

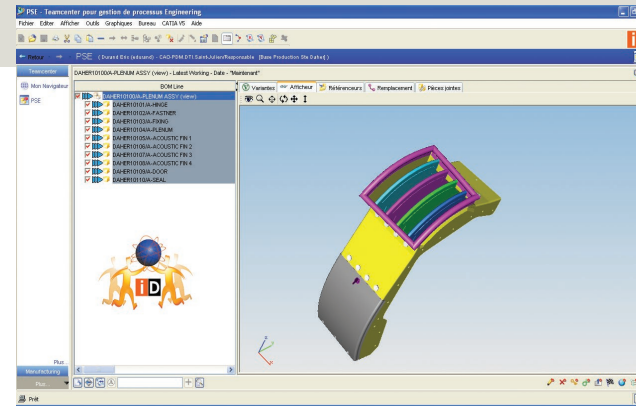
Montrichard
France

The PLM expert at DAHER-SOCATA, Durand, tells about a project involving Airbus. "We are developing, in cooperation with Airbus, a composite reinforcing beam for the A380 fuselage," he explains. "We receive the CAD data from their engineering department, and we validate it. The data is then forwarded to the Saint Hilaire facility, which manufactures the beam components while the Saint-Julien plant assembles and paints them. Obviously, during the whole lifecycle of this product, not only do we implement possible modifications on the original file, via our PLM, but also the product upgrades. This allows us to safeguard our development and we save time with each step.

"All the people involved in the development of a product, whatever their location within the group, can now access the data in real time, whether the data is CAD-related or not," Durand adds. "We enjoy perfectly controlled document management in a single system, from the documents' registration in the system to their validation. This certainly proves Nicolas Orance right. We are indeed a colossal plant on a worldwide scale."

Future PLM enhancements

New functionality is constantly being added to the PLM system. For the present as well as the future, supporting change with communication remains the key goal, and this project, more than ever, involves everyone. Current priorities include: integrating most industrial projects at all sites; managing change notifications using Teamcenter; having IT System Management, a division that is responsible for the group's IT requirements, take charge of day-to-day PLM administration; creating an interface between Teamcenter and the SAP® solution; and ensuring exchanges with customers, suppliers and partners via the central platform.



"We are still hoping to save time on processing our modifications; our goal is a 15 percent reduction," says Durand. "By integrating Teamcenter with our ERP (enterprise resource planning), we will ensure that our data is perfectly consistent, which means no more manufacturing at the wrong grade or no more miscalculated supplies, for instance. We will have a single product data system for the aerospace business division."

"PLM is a genuine decision-making tool, a management tool that is just as essential to us as our patents," Orance concludes. "We are well aware of the fact that if we have only contemporary technology, we are already obsolete. At DAHER-SOCATA, as demonstrated by our management, we are always planning so as to be one step ahead."

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