

Military aircraft manufacturer builds on data collection foundation

Business Results

- Common data collection platform for 15 enterprise applications
- High data availability, synchronization and validation at point of entry
- Extended ROI and minimal re-training from re-use of common user interface
- Support for new and future security requirements



The Challenge – Extensible data capture, routing and presentation for complex and highly regulated aerospace manufacturing environment

For over 25 years, Epic Data has worked closely for with a US-based manufacturer of military aircraft recognized as the leader in the design, development and production of jet fighters.

The manufacturer was one of the first aerospace companies to recognize the cost savings and efficiency gains possible with automated data collections. As a pioneer in the field, Epic Data has been a longstanding partner in the manufacturer's industry-leading adoption of automated data collection technology.

“In producing the world's most advanced aircraft, it is essential to record and validate details of all work performed, as it occurs. And we need to do this without creating additional overhead,” says a spokesperson for the military aircraft manufacturer. “The open standard solution from Epic Data brings our various standalone systems under a unified and much more efficient communications umbrella.”

Epic Data has created over 15 application interfaces to route data to and from the shop floor. Real-time shop floor information is presented to enterprise applications, including:

- SAP labor management
- Job costing
- Material tracking
- Tool tracking
- Access control
- Regulatory reporting
- Traceability of hazardous materials

Shop floor workers receive information pertaining to:

- Manufacturing work instructions
- Processes related to order fulfillment.

As well, the military aircraft manufacturer has continually updated its automated data collection network to incorporate the latest technology from Epic Data and other suppliers. It was an early adopter of a number of data collection technologies, including bar coding, magnetic-stripe and RFID. Keeping pace with advancing technologies, Epic Data's information capture system at the military aircraft manufacturer is now in its 5th generation.

The Solution – Epic Data IntegraNet™ real-time shop floor data collection management system

The hub of the currently deployed Epic Data system is IntegraNet™. IntegraNet is a powerful shop floor data collection management system that continuously gathers from people using data collection devices and delivers and delivers real-time data to enterprise applications.

Highlights of the military aircraft manufacturer's IntegraNet implementation:

- **Deployed in 8,000 computers, workstations and terminals**, ranging from engineering workstations, to office computers, to shop floor data collection terminals and work instruction displays. 1000 Epic Data Multi-Purpose Terminals (MPT 9600) are used for labor capture, access control and manufacturing processes related to order fulfillment.
- **Integrates and manages data from most of their production plants through 3 central hubs**, with a scalable, flexible infrastructure that provides high system availability, load balancing and Remote Device Management.
- **Data Validation** at the device to ensure data integrity.
- **High data and system availability for mission-critical operation**, with sub-second response times, off-line operation with data synchronization upon back-end recovery, and fault-tolerance through server redundancy and automatic client switching.

Epic Data's system will facilitate future Auto-ID and security programs

"We have confidence the Epic Data system will meet all our requirements," summarizes the manufacturer's spokesperson. "It is a strong platform that will support our needs today as well as those we foresee in the future; in particular those related to new scanning technologies and employee security measures."

ABOUT EPIC DATA

For over 30 years, Epic Data has delivered real-time shop floor and warehouse management information to the world's most progressive discrete manufacturers through turnkey data collection and lean manufacturing operations management solutions.

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