

CASE STUDY

Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions

Saves Time by Centralizing Document Control and Collaboration

Industry
High-Tech

Challenge

Replace an outdated document change management and distribution system to improve processes and take advantage of new software applications.

Results

- Increased productivity by centralizing and streamlining document control and collaboration
- Reduced document retrieval and approval time from minutes to seconds
- Achieved overall 20 percent time savings in document management with the ability to redeploy employees to more strategic initiatives

Products

- Rocket® TRUcentrix

Application

- B2B Supply Chain Integration

Company

Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions is the innovator behind the performance of many of today's most sophisticated computer operations. Cobham serves industries as diverse as aerospace, high-altitude avionics, medicine, nuclear power, transportation, GPS, and networking and communications. Its products and services include high-reliability integrated circuits, electronic manufacturing, circuit card assembly, and radiation test services.

Challenge

Cobham managed documentation for four distinct product lines, each with twenty products. This range of operations meant that at any given moment, inspectors and operators had to be able to access the latest versions of documentation for up to eighty products. The company relied on a legacy document management system that was becoming increasingly outdated. As the aging system faltered, Cobham grappled with performance and productivity constraints. Compatibility with current software applications became increasingly critical.

To better manage all controlled product and process documentation, streamline the change management and distribution process, and position itself to take advantage of current software solutions, Cobham recognized that it needed to take a new approach to streamlining and centralizing its document control and collaboration systems.

In its requirements specification for a new solution, Cobham noted that the new system had to be comprehensive, yet easy to administer. It would also have to scale to accommodate business growth and changing needs. To address compliance requirements, the system would also need to provide transparency to auditors.



Solution

After evaluating the options, the Cobham technical team chose Rocket® TRUcentrix secure web-based project management software. TRUcentrix is a comprehensive collaboration and process automation solution that streamlines the way businesses exchange data with partners and customers across corporate IT boundaries. In today's complex manufacturing environments where strategic business alliances and global supply chains are the norm, TRUcentrix simplifies access to a secure online environment for collaboration, real-time status monitoring, and problem solving. From simple Managed File Transfer (MFT) transactions to complex multi-organization workflows, TRUcentrix provides a single, secure, proven B2B platform with rapid ROI.

Results

The Rocket team collaborated with Cobham to transition from the company's legacy system to the Rocket TRUcentrix solution. The team ported more than 40,000 legacy documents while completing an extensive document cleanup. Rocket also helped implement a mechanism for electronic signature signoff. Deployment of the new system was rapid, with minimal disruption to existing operations.

With TRUcentrix in place, Cobham now had a system providing secure, Web-based document control and collaboration, streamlining its change management and distribution process.


Leveraging Rocket TRUcentrix, Cobham was able to increase employee productivity, improve efficiency, and reduce documentation retrieval time across production activities. While the company's previous system had taken users several minutes to complete a simple login, TRUcentrix enabled more than 300 Cobham users to retrieve the documents they needed in as little as two to three seconds. The new system also automatically alerted staff via email when new documentation was ready for approval, resulting in 20 percent time savings in document management. Overall, Cobham reduced its document retrieval and approval time from minutes to seconds.

Although Cobham's new centralized document management solution was far more comprehensive than its previous system, it also proved intuitive to use and remarkably easy to administer. As an added bonus, the system provided the transparency Cobham required to simplify preparation for audits and regulatory compliance. What's more, the new system scalability positioned Cobham to grow and take strategic advantage of new advanced applications as they became available.

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