EDAG GmbH AG

Significantly Improved Global Engineering Data Exchange Performance through Automation and Industry Standards support provided by the Rocket TRUfusion Enterprise Data Transfer Solution

A Successful Business Outcome for Our Customer
Secure workflows and CAD data exchange processes between globally dispersed design teams, partners, suppliers and customers

The EDAG Group (www.edag.de), the world’s leading independent engineering partner, develops ready-for-production solutions to ensure the mobility of the future. As an all-round engineering partner to the international mobility industry, EDAG develops complete modules, vehicles and derivatives in addition to a service portfolio of model building, prototype construction, tool and body manufacturing. EDAG also implements turn-key production facilities for body in white and vehicle assembly plants. Headquartered in Fulda, Germany, the EDAG Group employs about 3,800 employees worldwide. Their clients include manufacturers and numerous system suppliers to the international automotive industry as well as the commercial vehicle and rail sectors.

To accommodate EDAG’s growth, they were able to overcome one of the major challenges in engineering/CAD data exchange by replaced their existing data exchange system with a Rocket Software best practice standard solution.

The particular challenge was to secure a more efficient and cost-effective means to collaborate internally and with global teams, suppliers and customers as well as to provide secure workflows and processes when exchanging and sharing product or design data. In addition, EDAG required conformity to requirements related to international standards for CAD data communications such as the Odette OFTP protocol used between automotive companies.

The challenge was met by the introduction of the Rocket TRUfusion™ Enterprise solution, in combination with TRUeurex-c™, for automated and managed file transfer leveraging a multi-protocol communication system, and the TRUfusion™ Portal. It enabled the EDAG Group to create a future-oriented infrastructure that ensures secure, automated, centrally managed, and transparent global engineering data transfers among all stakeholders.
How We Worked with Our Customer to Achieve this Result
Following a successful POC (Proof of Concept) phase, the Rocket Software best practice solution significantly improved automated engineering data exchange

Problem addressed:
Prior to the deployment of the new Rocket system, EDAG used a self-developed web-based solution with third-party components. The shortcomings of this solution were long download times, an inconsistent data workflow for EDAG employees, administrators, customers and suppliers as well as high maintenance and administrative efforts. Further, the existing system had compliance limitations with regard to meeting industry standards for data transfers such as ENGDAT (Engineering Data Message), ENGPART (Engineering Partner Message) or OFTP/OFTP2 communication protocols. For example, when exchanging ENGDAT/CAD files between globally dispersed CAD workstations, the header file, which contains metadata, could only be generated in a partially automated manner and any necessary additions required manual data entry.

A new system was required to eliminate the existing weaknesses in EDAG’s global engineering data exchange process. This system would be implemented at EDAG sites in Germany, the United States, Brazil and South Africa in order to achieve considerable performance improvements. To attain that objective, EDAG sought an integrated standard automation solution. In addition to the required CAD data conversions, the new solution would have to allow for the connection of an increasing number of globally dispersed sites to a central data exchange system while ensuring compliance with international industry standards for engineering data exchange.

Drivers for change:
Following a thorough analysis of the existing technological infrastructure, EDAG defined its requirements and necessary workflows for the new system. The in-house development of a new solution was not an option due to the high costs, high maintenance and lack of internal development capabilities.

Instead, EDAG sought a standard solution to satisfy all the relevant requirements of automated data transfer processes in addition to central data and activities management. As such, the most prominent standard data exchange solutions on the market were sourced and evaluated. EDAG requested a POC to ensure the purchased solution would fit all of their needs.

We Can Do This for You
To satisfy the POC requirement, Rocket Software provided its TRUfusion™ Enterprise System, a configurable standard solution for automating, monitoring and managing data exchange and collaboration activities, over an agreed testing period. The system was implemented at the EDAG Munich site. After completing the POC and an evaluation of all potential vendor solutions, EDAG confirmed that Rocket Software was the right choice as their preferred global partner.
Rocket TRUfusion™ Enterprise was first successfully deployed at five EDAG sites with the main server in place at EDAG headquarters in Fulda, Germany. The introduction of the new system was associated with further process improvement opportunities involving the integration of intelligent CAD data browsers and processes for Catia V4, Catia V5, and NX together with specific communication protocols to help with OEM data mandate compliance. It also included support of native CAD files and a variety of neutral data formats including STEP, IGES and DXF together with OFTP2 and TRUfusion™ Portal for their own supply chain. Additional requirements related to data migration from the legacy system to TRUfusion™ Enterprise and the WAN capability of the new system to leverage a central Oracle database.

Here’s Proof of the Success

Significantly improved engineering data exchange performance

Rocket Software successfully replaced the EDAG legacy data exchange system and provided an efficient infrastructure for global, automated, end-to-end engineering data exchange processes by implementing TRUfusion™ Enterprise in connection with the high performance communication systems TRUeurex-c™ and TRUfusion™ Portal.

The use of TRUeurex-c™ allowed for an efficient worldwide implementation of the OFTP2 communication protocol and thus compliance with up-to-date industry standards. TRUeurex-c™ was implemented at EDAG headquarters as a central communication system for engineering data exchange with smaller partners. Partners without an OFTP2 connection were integrated into the global data flow and collaboration via the TRUfusion™ Portal.

The new system allows EDAG transparent and efficient data exchange management encompassing automated quality control, end-to-end tracking and documentation of engineering data exchange activities, and a time-controlled execution of archiving processes. The new Rocket Software system features high availability and stability enabling EDAG the opportunity to significantly reduce the administrative burden and reach the targeted increase in performance by the introduction of a standard automation system.