MESSIER-DOWTY TAKES OFF WITH GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000

If you have ever flown there is a good chance that at some time or other your life has depended on the quality and excellence of a Messier-Dowty product.
Messier-Dowty is the world's leading supplier of aircraft landing gear. It provides these vital assemblies to such civil aircraft manufacturers as Airbus, Boeing, Dassault, Fairchild Dornier and Bombardier.
Customers in the military sector include Aerospatiale/DASA, Bell/Agusta,British Aerospace,Boeing and EuroFighter.

Currently it is estimated that more than 15,000 aircraft are fitted with landing gear supplied by Messier-Dowty and that these make 20,000 takeoffs ----- and 20,000 landings ----- per day.

Messier-Dowty, which is part of the Snecma Group,has an annual turnover in excess of US $500 Million. It supplies integrated landing systems to more than 30 airframe manufacturers and also supports more than 600 commercial and military operators around the world.
Messier-Dowty's 2,900 employees are located in 8 operational sites throughout Europe (Gloucester in the west of England, Velizy and Bidos in France), North America (Montreal, Toronto and Peterborough in Canada, and Seattle in the USA), and Asia (Singapore).

The Messier-Dowty products are characterised by the most stringent standards of design, manufacture and testing to achieve the necessary levels of usage, reliability and safety.

A wide range of specialist machine tools has been designed and constructed to enable the development and production of the large range of landing gear assemblies. In the process many thousands of drawings and microfilms have been created over the years. These record the various modifications that have been necessary for the fabrication of each new landing gear assembly.

Ian Makin, who is one of the most important users of the drawing and microfilm archives at Messier-Dowty in Gloucester, commented that, "Our main challenge was to ensure that our scanned-in drawings and microfilms could be quickly and accurately altered and edited to reflect our new tooling requirements. We were looking for a technical imaging product that allowed us to do this, and as we already use Expert CAD® as our design tool, we did not want to have to buy a copy of another CAD package in order to access these imaging facilities and capabilities."

Mr Makin went on to add, "With this in mind, after evaluation, we chose GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000. It provides us with a perfect, 'stand-alone' solution. On the one hand we are able to import vector design files from our Expert CAD system into the GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000 environment and on the other we can bring in the raster files from our scanned drawings and microfilms. We are then able .....→

to make use of the comprehensive drafting and editing facilities within GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000 to make the required changes and updates in either raster and/or vector, before finally converting the whole file into a simple TIF (raster) format."

Mr Makin explained, "The TIF output files are exported into our Cimage® Drawing Retrieval and Management System from where they can be accessed from anywhere within the company for viewing and printing, provided that the user has the appropriate access rights.
These up-to-date TIF files are also used as the main medium to communicate with our sub-contractors. They form the basis of specifications and tender documents that enable the sub-contractors to do accurate costing exercises as they prepare their proposals for our consideration."

The GTX software solutions were supplied by CADSpec, who are the CAD and Imaging specialist company within the Worcester headquartered Stanford Marsh Group.

Mr Dave Moore, who is the GTX Product Manager for CADSpec, commented that, "Messier-Dowty has used a Xerox® 8825 DDS system for scanning their drawings and a Wicks & Wilson® Microfilm scanner for some time now. We initially supplied them with a copy of GTXImage Edit™ and this is in daily use to help them de-skew, crop, de-speckle and clean-up their scanned drawings and microfilm scans. With the recent introduction of the new GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000 software solution we were able to offer Messier-Dowty the ability to combine their Expert CAD files and their scanned files together in a way that gave them the best of both worlds in one product."

Mr Moore went on to add that, "The GTXImage CAD™*PLUS* 2000 software has been supplied on a floating network licence, and this provides additional flexibility of usage to the Messier-Dowty engineers. The training went very smoothly and they were productive during the same day that the software was installed."

In summarising Messier-Dowty's experiences, Mr Makin commented that, "Before we introduced GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000 we used to have to alter the drawings in the traditional way, editing by hand, `scratching-out` and sometimes redrawing completely, all of which were very costly and time-consuming. We are very pleased with GTXImage CAD™ *PLUS* 2000. It has transformed our drawing office procedures. We estimate that we are now at least 20 times as productive in our drawing update and other related tasks".

It is perhaps reassuring that even in the high-flying world of commercial and military aircraft, something as down to earth as drawings and the ability that Messier-Dowty now has to update them easily, efficiently and electronically helps give this impressive company the edge that it needs to stay ahead of its competition, while keeping its feet-- or should it be wheels -- firmly on the ground.

If you would like to find out more about the companies

involved in this Case Study please visit:-

www.messier-dowty.com

www.cadspec.co.uk

www.gtx.com

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GTX Corporation Company Profile:

GTX Corporation is the leading supplier of scan-conversion and editing products that provide complete integration and interfacing between scanned drawing archives and Computer Aided Design/Drafting CAD systems.

GTX was founded in 1984 by Dr. Marvin T. Ling, to bridge the gap between paper engineering drawings and electronic format (CAD) and to solve the time-consuming problems of storing, retrieving and editing paper drawings.

GTX is a privately held corporation headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona with offices in Basingstoke, England and Taipei, Taiwan. GTX sells its products through a network of authorized distributors and resellers throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Pacific Rim, the Middle East and Africa. The Company also licenses its technology to third-party CAD vendors for integration and sale under their own private label.

GTX technology brings intelligence to manually created drawings and allows companies to gain productivity and lower costs to effectively maintain, revise and store their engineering documents.

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