



Press Release

For more information, contact:

Mary Batzel

Intercim Corporate Communications

651-289-5744

mbatzel@intercim.com

For immediate release

EADS has incorporated Pertinence Suite into its “EADS Black Belt” program and save 250 000€ per year per project.

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At the end of 2004, the EADS Quality Office purchased 10 Pertinence Suite licenses for an enterprise-wide initiative to improve quality. Pertinence Suite was then incorporated into their People Skills Improvement stream, called the “EADS Black Belt” program, alongside the prestigious Lean and Six Sigma methodologies. The objective of this Black Belt program, at its highest level, was “to train, during a 4-week program, a core of experts devoted to the continuous improvement of performance and quality of their local operational processes”, states Bill Black, Chief Quality Officer at EADS. “The target audience was all those people who were managing the improvement programs and those staff members with high potential involved in these programs.”

Defects eliminated and savings increased dramatically thanks to Pertinence Suite

Each training course is organized around a defined project. Nearly 200 projects within the Group are currently running, of which ten (due to the number of licenses) necessitate the use of Pertinence Suite, lent for the occasion for one year by the Quality department. “Of these ten projects, five are now complete, and these allow us to test the degree to which this tool has brought us tangible benefits on the floor,” continues Bill Black. “The first concerns the EADS-SECA division, responsible for maintenance of the aircraft engines at the Le Bourget site near Paris. After engine assembly, 1.89 tests on average were necessary in order to achieve normal operation of the engine (i.e. a 53% first pass yield), while a single test would have been the ideal (i.e. 100%). This test rate obviously resulted in additional costs and delays. However, thanks to the Rule Maker and Operation Advisor modules of the Pertinence Suite, this rate was reduced from 1.89 to 1.3 (i.e. the first pass yield has been improved from 53% to 77%), and this made a very significant contribution to the annual saving of 500,000 euros.

The second project, within the Eurocopter division, is the non-conformity of the composite used for helicopter rotors, which are made at the Marignane site in South of France. A solution to the appearance of small bubbles in the composite had indeed been found but was not understood. Pertinence Rule Maker

not only enabled this phenomenon to be understood, but also improved it to the extent of saving 154,000 euros on the initial cost of 162,000 euros linked to the problem. The next step was to determine the elements to be traced throughout the manufacturing process in order to achieve greater responsiveness.

The third project also concerned a porosity defect affecting 16% of aircraft tail sections manufactured on the Airbus site in Stade, Germany. At the end of 2 iterations of data analysis, Pertinence Rule Maker helped reduce this rate to 4%.

Pertinence Suite: a solution to promote

The fourth project, which was conducted within Airbus UK, succeeded in identifying the parameters responsible for a flatness defect in metal parts used on aircraft wings. This defect resulted in extra costs of approximately 600,000 euros per year. And finally, the fifth project concerns the process for the manufacturing of aircraft wing slats in the EADS MTAD CASA division. The defect, which was linked to the bonding at 2000°C of the titanium layers composing the wing slats that resulted in cycle time variations and extra costs, was reduced by 90,000 euros in 2006, thanks to Pertinence Rule Maker and its recommendations for operational practice improvements.

“These Pertinence projects, with an average duration of 6 to 8 months, generate average annual savings of 250,000 euros, which is more than the overall average savings of 150,000 euros per year generated by the “EADS Black Belt” projects of the Group”, says Bill Black. “These are very satisfactory results that should progressively persuade the divisions concerned to acquire their own licenses, in order to release those of the Quality department for use on many other projects currently put on hold.”

In addition, the EADS Quality division is actively promoting Pertinence Suite within the IAQG (International Aerospace Quality Group), in which it has been participating since its creation in 1999. This Group has set for itself the objective of setting and implementing standards for the improvement of quality and safety of aerospace products and services at every link of the procurement chain. “Almost 80 % of the components that we use within the Group are outsourced to parts manufacturers and partners, or even to our direct competitors who are also members of the IAQG,” continues Bill Black. “Improving the performance of our operational processes and the quality of the 20% of parts that are produced internally does not seem to us to be sufficient. It is for this reason that we hope, through the IAQG, to persuade the sixty or so member companies to follow us in this quest for improvement - with Pertinence Suite of course.”

About Pertinence

In July 2007, Pertinence has merged with Intercim

Pertinence is a global leader in the Enterprise Manufacturing Intelligence software, enabling the extraction, application, control and sharing of Best Operational Practices (BOPs). Pertinence develops software dedicated to optimizing industrial processes and complex systems. Through its innovative, leading-edge data analysis technology, Pertinence empowers professionals to improve process quality, reduces time to market for product launches and better manages complex systems' initial set up.

Pertinence is located in Europe and the United States.

Customers include industry leaders from the Pharma-Biotech, Aerospace and Defense, Semiconductor and Industrial Products sectors including Airbus, BMW, EADS, Sanofi Pasteur, Siemens, etc. Please visit www.pertinence.com for more information.

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