

# Designed for the Aerospace & Defence Industry

## Eurofighter GmbH Case Study

### Facts About Eurofighter

The Eurofighter Typhoon is the world's most advanced multi-role combat aircraft. The Chiefs of Air Staff of Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK agreed operational requirements for the Eurofighter aircraft in the 1990s.

Eurofighter GmbH is based in Hallbergmoos, Germany and is the consortium set up to manage the development and production of the complete Eurofighter Typhoon weapon system. It is owned by four partner companies: Alenia Aerospazio, BAE Systems, EADS-CASA and EADS-DASA

Eurofighter is Europe's largest collaborative industrial programme and will deliver 620 aircraft plus an optional extra 90 aircraft. 232 of the new planes will be delivered to the UK, 180 to Germany, 121 to Italy and 87 to Spain.

In July 2003, Eurofighter finalised the signature of Type Acceptance documentation for the new aircraft. This marks the start



IPA2 in flight

of the aircraft's operational life. Partner Air Forces will now begin to receive aircraft and to integrate them with their respective fleets.

IFS Defence was selected to provide the Industrial Exchange & Repair Service (IERS) for Eurofighter GmbH in 2001.

### **Eurofighter Consortium Builds Groundbreaking Logistics System with IFS Applications for Defence**

The four-nation Eurofighter consortium has built its Industrial Exchange and Repair Service (IERS) using IFS Applications for Defence.

### **Support Strategy**

An aircraft can no longer be developed in isolation of the support and maintenance services that wrap around it during its lifespan. A key element in the operational support of Eurofighter is the Industrial Exchange and Repair Service (IERS), which forms the basis for the aircraft's Long Term Repair and Overhaul solution. The basic principle of IERS is the supply by Industry of either a spares exchange or a repair service for a defined number of aircraft parts. IT support to this service is

### **Benefits**

- Ability to track critical assets on the aircraft and through the repair loop and transportation system
- Improve availability of critical items and reduced investment in spares
- Forms the backbone of the Long Term Repair and Overhaul programme

### **The Software – IFS Applications for Defence**

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Mark Wolfenden, BAE Systems Warton

required to provide a means of communication, configuration management, inventory control, asset tracking, performance monitoring and management reporting.

As a new consortium, Eurofighter had a blank sheet when it came to implementing IT applications to support IERS. It chose IFS Applications for Defence because it needed software that could help it track critical assets both on the aircraft and through the industrial repair loop and transportation system.

The IERS system was developed at IFS Defence's ISO 9001 Accredited Development Centre in London and based on IFS's core ERP Software, that has been modified to Eurofighter's specification. As well as providing the technical solution, IFS Defence provided services such as technical support, bespoke user training and a fully operational training system.

### The IT Solution

IERS means that suppliers are paid for a rotatable exchange or repair service, instead of the traditional method of national air forces ordering, receiving or stocking rotatables. IFS Applications for Defence was customised to allow Eurofighter nations to track critical parts on the operating base or aircraft, through the industrial repair loop and transportation system. Performance related functionality was added to link payment for the exchange service to the supplier's performance in terms of waiting times and number of defects per flying hour. Payments and/or penalties are also linked to agreed performance measurement criteria. The groundbreaking system covers all of the operating bases across



DA1, DA2, DA4 flying in formation for the Farnborough air show, England, 2003

Europe, the Eurofighter partner companies, the 60+ suppliers and Eurofighter GmbH headquarters. This was Stage 1 of the deployment of IFS Applications for IERS.

The second stage of the project was delivered in summer 2002 and provided external XML-based interfaces to associated software systems including Eurofighter's Engineering Support System (ESS) and Reference Data Management System (RDMS).

The third and final stage of the project was delivered in June 2003 and provided enhanced performance and management reporting capability.

IFS Applications for Defence were rolled out on an ultra thin client architecture, which provides both high performance and a highly secure and reliable system.

Mark Wolfenden, Eurofighter Product Manager at BAE Systems Warton, says: "The IERS system has given the Eurofighter Typhoon support programme a significant platform from which it can operate. The infrastructure is now in place to manage a multinational support network, controlling the storage and movement of aircraft spares in real time. This will enable the delivery of the current Eurofighter Typhoon support business, as well as the foundations for any future support contracts." ■

**For further information please  
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