



**Compliance
Agent**

Your Key to Integration

Automotive Lighting • Issue 02/2009



A light at the end of the data tunnel



**iPoint-systems optimizes global ELV processes at Automotive Lighting
with Compliance Agent's iMDS Solutions**

Automotive Lighting GmbH lights up the road ahead. Products for exterior lighting manufactured by the Reutlingen-based specialists ensure that drivers can see and be seen. Automotive Lighting develops and produces headlights and taillights for all types of vehicle. The broad product range includes everything from tried and tested halogen technology, Xenon, adaptive lighting systems and infrared night vision systems right down to the most cutting edge LED technology. Automotive Lighting has approximately 12,000 employees working at 20 different locations worldwide. In 2007, the subsidiary of Magneti Marelli Group

generated revenues of approximately EUR 1.6 billion. iPoint-systems gmbh's Compliance Agent has been responsible for material and substance reporting for many years, allowing Automotive Lighting to work even more efficiently. Reporting includes both the automated exchange of information with the International Material Data System (IMDS) as part of the initial sample inspection as well as process integration and compliance testing (i.e. according to GADSL and ELV standards) further along the supply chain. A project which, in spite of its complexity, was implemented exceptionally quickly: the solution was up and running just

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four months after iPoint-systems was chosen. Legislative initiatives worldwide, comparable to the European ELV or RoHS directives and the European ordinance REACH, require consistent product documentation down to substance level. Declaring hazardous materials, the extent to which recycled materials have been used and the recyclability of products has been common practice in the automotive industry for many years. An extensive product report which traces everything along the supply chain is vital for documenting and ensuring conformity with the various material-related laws worldwide. This entails a huge amount of time and effort.

Closing the flood gates on data

Automotive Lighting started out with a bright idea – and a mountain of datasets. “We have to create about 750 in-house material data-sheets (MDB) for our annual average of 75 new products – about two per day,” explains Dr. Fred Twardon from Environment Management Quality Assurance at Automotive Lighting. “Our products consist of about 150 parts with anywhere from 1,500 to 4,000 structural elements included on the materials list. This means that on top of our own MDB, we receive about 20 times as many again from suppliers – which makes for a flood of data.” Finding light at the end of the tunnel by ensuring that delivered data was both on time and correct was therefore the main priority for the new IT solution.

Automotive Lighting chose iPoint-systems after thoroughly examining the various offers submitted. “iPoint-systems didn’t just talk about possible solutions like other suppliers, they simply implemented them directly. The innovative solution and its flexibility when it comes to customer requests was also a decisive factor,” says Dr. Twardon, in explaining the decision.

Only productive processes survive

iMDS Solutions from iPoint-systems gmbh was up and running after an introductory period of approximately three months and roughly another four weeks needed for installing and filling the system. Since then, Automotive Lighting has deployed the solution as an interface between internal systems and external ELV databases such as IMDS, MACSI/PSA or Honda ELV. Data from material lists is automatically transmitted bidirectionally, from Automotive Lighting SAP Europe to iPoint’s in-house system and vice versa. Further integration with SAP NetWeaver is also in the pipeline.

By implementing the iPoint solution, time-consuming tasks such as manually entering data into the automotive manufacturer’s portals and synchronizing MDB data are things of the past. Along with automated data synchronization, iMDS Solutions is also responsible for complete testing of data and quality control. “In the past, entering data into the database was a full-time job. The process of ensuring data quality as well as customer and supplier communication can





be fully automated,” explains Dr. Fred Twardon. Another factor in favor of iMDS Solutions is its flexibility and scalability. “Our ideas and concepts were always in good hands with iPoint, where technical considerations are translated directly into specific solutions.”

iMDS Solutions was gradually implemented in the manufacturing plants in Germany and the Czech Republic, the headlight plants in Malaysia, Mexico and Italy as well as in the taillight plants

in Poland and Russia. Automotive Lighting has now familiarized users in more than 20 training courses with iMDS Solutions. The solution is used at every plant worldwide and Dr. Twardon now sees even more potential in iMDS: “Material reporting should never be seen as the customer making awkward demands, but rather as an impetus and opportunity for streamlining processes. iMDS Solutions as part of the iPoint Compliance Agent helped us reach this goal very quickly and effectively.”



*Dr. Fred Twardon from
Environment Management Quality Assurance
at Automotive Lighting*



About iPoint-systems:

iPoint-systems is an integrations specialist dedicated to optimizing and automating cross-company business processes. iSIFrame, the iPoint Service Integration Framework, manages the bidirectional data exchange within and between companies. iSIFrame is comprised of iPoint Application Services (iPAS), various agents and the Business Process Framework (iFlow).

iPAS integrates external and internal systems as well as applications (SOA, SAP, portals) and supplies the necessary services or front ends. The agents provide the cross-company exchange of relevant data for the areas of quality, compliance, patents, intellectual property, logistics, security and others. The technical backbone of the system is iFlow: it governs the processes while supplying the runtime environment and connections to the backend systems. Over-

all it increases efficiency in collaboration between companies, ensures the required high standard of quality, reduces costs incurred by complaints and warranties, assists in adhering to compliance requirements (ELV, REACH, RoHS), supports flexible and innovative approaches and, last but not least, optimizes network excellence. iPoint-systems was presented with the German Internet award by BITKOM.

With iSIFrame, iPoint-systems has become the number one integrator in the automotive industry. iPoint systems are used by more than 160 automotive suppliers, 43 of which are in the world's top 100. The company is based in Reutlingen, Germany, and was founded in 2001. It generated revenues of more than EUR 4 million in 2007 and currently has more than 50 employees. Visit www.ipoint-systems.com to find out more.

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