



CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT

Lockheed Martin

Aegis Open Architecture Weapon System

Customer Overview

Lockheed Martin is a premier systems integrator principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration, and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. Lockheed Martin has more than 3,000 programs in the United States and worldwide. Lockheed Martin typically accounts for about 19 percent of global defense exports and about 40 percent of all U.S. defense exports.

The U.S. Navy has awarded Lockheed Martin a \$208.7 million contract to produce three Aegis weapon Systems. Aegis Open Architecture (AOA) is the foundation for the modernization of the Navy's Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers. The open architecture approach will allow the Navy to readily incorporate software and hardware updates into its Aegis systems. This allows those systems to be maintained at the highest level of capability while employing low cost, off-the-shelf solutions with high Quality of Service parameters, yet without expensive and time-consuming maintenance requirements.

Application

The Aegis Weapon System, developed by Lockheed Martin, is the world's premier naval surface defense system and is the foundation for Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, the primary component of the sea-based element of the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System.

The Aegis Weapon System includes the SPY-1 radar, the U.S. Navy's most advanced computer-controlled radar system. When paired with Lockheed Martin's MK-41 Vertical Launching System, it is capable of delivering missiles for every mission and threat environment in naval warfare.

The Aegis Weapon System is currently deployed on 78 ships around the globe, with more than 25 additional ships planned. In addition to the U.S. Navy, Aegis is the maritime weapon system of choice for Australia, Japan, South Korea, Norway and Spain.



Lockheed Martin was seeking a solution that incorporated standards in a comprehensive data distribution framework. Real-time performance with a guaranteed response time was required. The only feasible alternative was for Lockheed Martin to build its own custom data distribution service, which would have meant extra cost for development and maintenance, along with a significantly longer development cycle. The company opted to use RTI Data Distribution Service, a COTS solution that optimized development time and provided a better life cycle alternative than a custom solution.

Challenges

The Navy wanted to do away with decades of old proprietary combat-system software and replace it with modern open architecture solutions. This transition could be costly, but in the long run could save billions of dollars. Officials claim that an open architecture environment would help the Navy improve the capabilities of the Aegis combat system for future missile-defense missions.

The ideal solution was to have an open standards-based messaging middleware solution with the ability to insulate each subsystem from changes in adjacent subsystems.

Why RTI was selected

The Aegis Open Architecture team selected RTI after a nine-month evaluation of commercial implementations of the Object Management Group's (OMG's) Data Distribution Service (DDS) for Real-Time Systems standard. Factors considered in this extensive evaluation included standards compliance, performance, lifecycle costs and customer support.

RTI will help meet the need to share time-critical and mission-critical data across a highly-distributed system while maximizing future scalability and flexibility. According to Orlando Carvalho, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's Surface-Sea Based Missile Defense (SBMD) Systems business, "AOA will modernize the Navy's surface force and enable rapid insertion of future technology upgrades. RTI's Data Distribution Service supports this mission through its open-standards design and ability to insulate each subsystem from changes in adjacent subsystems."

Conclusion

Lockheed Martin required a standards-based data distribution system that met the realtime needs and scalability requirements of a comprehensive shipboard weapon system. RTI Data Distribution Service delivered a middleware solution that met the stringent requirements of the AOA weapon system, enabling Lockheed Martin to meet its commitments to the U.S. Navy for cost and performance.

About Real-Time Innovations

RTI is the world leader in fast, scalable communications software that addresses the challenges of building and integrating real-time operational systems. RTI Connex solutions meet the needs of enterprise-wide integration—from the operational edge to the enterprise data center. The RTI standards-based software infrastructure improves the efficiency of operational systems while facilitating better decisions, actions and outcomes for the business enterprise.

For over ten years, RTI has delivered industry-leading products and solutions for customers in markets ranging from Aerospace & Defense, Process Automation, Financial Services, Energy, Automotive, Health Sciences and Transportation Management.

Founded in 1991, RTI is privately held and headquartered in Sunnyvale, California.

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