

From scattered data to one central information hub

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HQ Location: Malvern,
Worcestershire, UK
Industry: Healthcare
Product: Aras Innovator®



Background

Malvern Instruments provides the materials and biophysical characterization technology and expertise that enables scientists and engineers to understand and control the properties of dispersed materials.

Malvern systems are used to measure particle size, particle shape, zeta potential, protein charge, molecular weight, mass, size and conformation, microcalorimetry, rheological properties and for chemical identification, advancing the understanding of dispersed systems across many different industries and applications.

CHALLENGES:

Decentralized data storage

Huge amount of unstructured data

Heavy overall data searching process leading to use of older versions of files

IMPROVEMENTS:

Improved access to information.
Now all important data are stored in one central location

More efficient work routines, allowing people to spend less time searching for documents, and managers can use Aras to check project status

Fewer design mistakes, due to the visibility and better organization of data, drawings and other product information always being up to date and aligned in the system

Problem area

One million files or better said 1 terabyte – 1024 gigabyte of data.

That was roughly the amount of data scattered in literally every virtual corner of Malvern Instruments' organisation - from hard drives to e-mails and floppy disks. The vast quantities of unstructured information were the main factor behind their decision to find a system enabling a more structured way of centralizing the data.

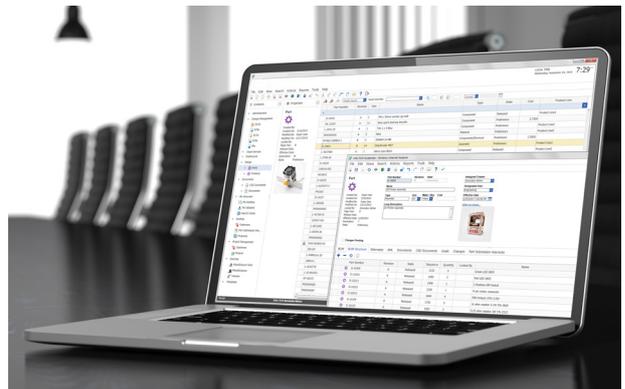
Furthermore, Malvern Instruments' constant growth - from 200 people to more than 1,000, in the past decade as well as their expansion having offices on three continents, reinforced the need for a scalable system flexible enough to adapt to all their processes and support their pursuit of success.

“Aras immediately came in to help us find all that information a lot more quickly,” recalls **Simon Wihl, engineering manager in software at Malvern Instruments.**

Requirements

As an organization dealing with electronics manufacturing and software development, it is crucial for Malvern Instruments to find a platform that complies with those work processes and have the flexibility and configurability to cover all their specific requirements.

The system should be able to structure all their data and track live all modifications of documents. Visibility and clarity of the internal information flow between all facilities of Malvern Instruments is an essential requirement.



Solution

“With so many new people coming into the organisation, you can’t rely on just spreading information by word of mouth. With drawings and documents stored in one place, finding the right information is just a lot easier. At the same time Aras widens the availability of information, so the middle managers now use it to check on the status of the projects. That is becoming a very powerful tool, which people are starting to rely on.” **says John Wilkinson, Principal Systems Engineer at Malvern Instruments, adding that using Aras has also reduced mistakes from a design point of view:** “Having a PLM system forces people to store the parts in the right place, because the products can’t be realised before they are approved in the system,” says John Wilkinson.

Initially aimed at documents handling, Aras is now also being used for storing drawings for parts. With around 300 daily users, Aras is gradually becoming a knowledge database – a central information hub for not only engineers and developers but also managers, John Wilkinson explains. It has grown to become a vital process tool for Malvern Instruments.

The high level of configurability comes in handy, as Malvern Instruments is considering migrating data from Aras into Microsoft SharePoint and ERP-system SAP - and thus bring R&D and manufacturing closer together. Interdepartmental integration is a key to leaner, more responsive and efficient organization.



About Minerva

With many customers worldwide, Minerva Group is one of the most flexible and fastest growing vendors of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software solutions, globally. Our core competence is providing manufacturing organizations with the tools they need for managing products' development throughout their complete value chain, while supporting them in their pursuit of process efficiency and streamlined collaboration.

Our industrial solutions and add-ons for Aras Innovator® help our clients speed up the implementation process, and take advantage of Minerva's experience from multiple implementations, and support their constant growth.

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About Aras

Aras provides Aras Innovator® as a free enterprise open source software suite of solutions on the Microsoft platform. Enterprise software for new product introduction, advanced product quality planning, and enterprise product lifecycle management provide businesses with a process-oriented approach to manage innovation and collaboration from concept through development and launch. Aras solutions are designed to support Lean in the product development process while addressing product quality, risk management, and compliance in an integrated manner.

For more information on the Aras Innovator® software solution suite and to download the software visit www.aras.com



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