

Lockheed Martin

Aegis Open Architecture Weapon System



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.

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.

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.

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 real-time 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 RTI

Real-Time Innovations (RTI) provides high-performance infrastructure solutions for distributed real-time applications. RTI middleware delivers dramatic improvements in latency, throughput and scalability while slashing cost of ownership. A broad range of industries leverage RTI's software and design expertise, including defense, intelligence, simulation, industrial control, power generation, transportation, finance, medical and communications. Founded in 1991, RTI is privately held and headquartered in Sunnyvale, California. For more information, please visit www.rti.com.

US HEADQUARTERS
Real-Time Innovations, Inc.
385 Moffett Park Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
Tel: (408) 990-7400
Fax: (408) 990-7402
info@rti.com

©2009 Real-Time Innovations, Inc. All rights reserved.
RTI, Real-Time Innovations, NDDS, SkyBoard and The Real-Time
Middleware Company are registered trademarks or trademarks of
Real-Time Innovations, Inc. All other trademarks used in this
document are the property of their respective owners. 0909

www.rti.com

