



CASE STUDY

From Scattered Data to One Central Information Hub

ABOUT

Company: Malvern Panalytical

Headquarters: Malvern, UK

Industry: Hi-Tech Electronics

CHALLENGES

- Decentralized data storage
- Huge amount of unstructured data
- Heavy overall data searching process leading to use of older versions of files

IMPROVEMENTS USING ARAS

- Improved access to information. Now, all important data is 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

NO PARTICLE LEFT UNTURNED

Malvern Panalytical makes scientific instruments and offer services that help their customer examine the fundamental chemical and physical structure of their products. Malvern Panalytical provides the materials and biophysical characterization technology and expertise that enables scientists and engineers to understand and control the properties of dispersed materials. Their 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.

Malvern Panalytical is part of [Spectris Plc](#), the world-leading precision measurement group. All Spectris companies are focused on harnessing the power of precision measurement to equip customers to make the world cleaner, healthier and more productive: going beyond measurement, to deliver value beyond measure.



1024 gigabytes of uncategorized data



DATA ALL OVER THE PLACE

That number you see above was roughly the amount of data scattered in every virtual corner of Malvern Analytical's organization—from hard drives to emails and floppy disks. The vast quantities of unstructured information was the main factor behind their decision to find a system enabling a more structured way of centralizing the data.

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

Furthermore, Malvern Analytical's 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.

THEIR REQUIREMENTS

As an organization dealing with electronics manufacturing and software development, it is crucial for Malvern Analytical 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 all modifications of documents in real time. Visibility and clarity of the internal information flow between all facilities of Malvern Analytical is an essential requirement.

ONE-STOP DATA SHOP

"With so many new people coming into the organization, 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 Panalytical, 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 realized before they are approved in the system," says John Wilkinson.

Initially aimed at document handling, Aras Innovator is now also being used to store 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 Panalytical.

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

CLEAN DATA ENVIRONMENT WITH NO OBSTACLES

Today, the people at Malvern Panalytical have an improved workflow because of better access to information. All important data is stored in one central location, creating more efficient work routines, allowing people to spend less time searching for documents, and providing a tool managers to use to check project status.

As a result, Malvern outputs more products with 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.



Aras provides the most powerful low-code platform with applications to design, build, and operate complex products. It's technology enables the rapid delivery of flexible, upgradeable solutions that build business resilience. Aras' platform and product lifecycle management applications connect users in all disciplines and functions to critical product data and processes across the lifecycle and throughout the extended supply chain. Airbus, Audi, DENSO, Honda, Kawasaki, Microsoft, Mitsubishi, and Nissan are using the platform to manage complex change and traceability. Visit www.aras.com to learn more and follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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