

# Collins Aerospace

Aerospace and Defense



## OVERVIEW

- Improve collaboration of product teams to drive innovation
- Improve time-to-market
- Improve employee productivity
- Improve regulatory compliance with global export laws

## ENVIRONMENT

Global collaboration among Collins Aerospace' product development teams located across more than 150 countries

## CUSTOMER BACKGROUND

Rockwell Collins, now known as Collins Aerospace, is headquartered in Cedar Rapids, is a pioneer in the development and deployment of innovative communication and aviation electronic solutions for both commercial and government applications. Their expertise in flight deck avionics, cabin electronics, mission communications, simulation and training, and information management is delivered by a global workforce, and a service and support network that crosses more than 150 countries.

Collins Aerospace electronics systems and products are installed in the flight decks of nearly every air transport aircraft in the world. The company builds communication systems that transmit 70% of all U.S. and allied military communications. The flight electronics and communications equipment support integrated systems airplane controls, communications, and flight environment.

## BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

Collins Aerospace sought to improve the collaboration of product teams: peak collaboration enables the company to drive greater enterprise performance and competitive advantage through faster time-to-market and more innovative products. Additionally, the company sought to automate data access in compliance with export laws. To achieve their business objectives, Collins Aerospace decided to pursue a technology driven approach to comply with electronic export regulations. However, there were several challenges.

## CHALLENGES

To comply with electronic export regulations and protect IP while enabling and accelerating global collaboration, the following challenges needed to be addressed:

- Provide a solution to define and enforce business authorizations across the entire organization to ensure corporate adherence to jurisdictional law and contracts that:
  - Protect intellectual property (IP)
  - Meet export law and contractual commitments
- Provide automated enforcement of compliance based on classification and assigned user attributes. Attributes can be contracts, country office, nationality, IP, title, part number, etc.
- Provide comprehensive reporting through the solution's report management tool to ensure efficient auditing
- Provide a solution with extensibility across multiple systems including the product-lifecycle management tool Enovia, enterprise-resource planning tool SAP, and collaboration platforms Microsoft SharePoint and File Server

## SOLUTION

To solve the challenges, Collins Aerospace selected NextLabs' Rights Management solution to provide policy-driven enforcement of information controls to improve compliance and meet export requirements for 150 countries:

- Provides a platform to define and dynamically enforce business authorizations in real-time across the entire organization to protect intellectual property (IP) and comply with data export regulations
- Provides centralized and automated enforcement of compliance based on assigned user attributes that govern the safe access of share controlled data
- Restricting access to technical data on collaboration sites based on need to know
- Provides comprehensive reporting through the solution's report management tool To enhance business planning, NextLabs also:
  - Automated an end-to-end solution to ensure true cohesiveness to continuously scale improvements in productivity and reduce costs
  - Reduced the need for customization of enterprise applications

## THE CHALLENGES

As a supplier in the Aerospace and Defense markets, Collins Aerospace is subject to and must comply with export control across multiple jurisdictions. Additionally, the business needs to protect its trade secrets and confidential information of high-value products for the avionics industry while accelerating collaboration between product developers.

Collins Aerospace wanted to enable effective collaboration across key stakeholders in 150 countries – employees, suppliers and customers with the right data at the right time. It is extremely important to their global business expansion and their ability to quickly introduce new products into their key markets. Additionally, the company needed to implement a solution that provided centralized export compliance and data access with policy based access controls.

Collins Aerospace operates at multiple levels of collaboration involving suppliers, subsidiaries, and 3rd party partners. Suppliers and 3rd party partners should also comply with the same export regulations and intellectual property protection mandates of the company, the fact is that much of the Aerospace and Defense industry relies on manual processes that place high-value information at risk, drive up costs and slow down productivity.

## BUSINESS DRIVERS

- Collaboration and productivity needed to be improved so that distributed product teams could drive faster time-to-market and more innovative products
- Corporate adherence to jurisdictional law and customer contract requirements needed to be streamlined to speed access to data in compliance with export laws
- Daily duplication and multiple instances of the same engineering drawings stored in multiple foreign locations
- Delays in data access because some data was stored in foreign locations

## THE SOLUTION

As Collins Aerospace expands its global footprint and customer base, the product development organization will require employees to collaborate more often. Prior to implementing the NextLabs solution, Collins Aerospace' Product Data Management (PDM) system provided somewhat limited access to technical data for non-U.S. Citizens, requiring manual effort and delays in getting the right data to allow employees to do their jobs.

The NextLabs information risk management solution for Collins Aerospace provides the following:

- A business authorization and export license management framework that automates the enforcement of export authorizations across all of Collins Aerospace. The business authorization framework is component based (a component is a collective of attributes). An example component that can be set is "US Persons" which collectively refers to users with certain nationality attributes. This component-based approach allows compliance teams to define their policies without the involvement of IT.
- Export licenses and other security policies are easily defined in the solution by using commonly spoken statements
- Dynamic (real-time) and policy-driven approaches are leveraged to provide fine-grained attribute-based authorization and access-control based on XACML standards
- External classification systems are integrated and leveraged for policy decisions
- Access to multiple sources of user identity data can be accessed to determine current user classifications for dynamic access control
- Uniform access control across multiple environments for accessing Enovia data, with expansion capability to Microsoft SharePoint and SAP

## BENEFITS

Once Collins Aerospace implemented the NextLabs solution, programs saw an immediate improvement in global engineering collaboration and productivity by allowing foreign employees direct access to the technical data that they have permission to view, while maintaining compliance with all applicable laws and the practices of the company. Additionally, the following benefits were experienced:

### Reduced costs by:

- Eliminating the need for manual program administration
- Eliminating the need for custom coding of engineering systems
- Reducing the cost of auditing

### Improved employee productivity:

- By automating access authorization. Employees no longer wait for manual approval before accessing design documents

### Improved compliance and reduced risk of violation:

- By automating enforcement of access rules and compliance reporting



## ABOUT NEXTLABS

NextLabs®, Inc. provides zero trust data-centric security software to protect business critical data and applications. Our patented dynamic authorization technology and industry leading attribute-based zero trust policy platform helps enterprises identify and protect sensitive data, monitor and control access to the data, and prevent regulatory violations – whether in the cloud or on premises. The software automates enforcement of security controls and compliance policies to enable secure information sharing across the extended enterprise. NextLabs has some of the largest global enterprises as customers and has strategic relationships with industry leaders such as SAP, Siemens, Microsoft, AWS, Accenture, Deloitte, Infosys, and IBM. For more information on NextLabs, please visit: <http://www.nextlabs.com>.