

# Worldwide Software Development at Hella Corporation

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- JÜRGEN BELZ, HELLA

## Company Overview

Hella has adopted a Network-Value-Strategy, a concept based on cooperation instead of concentration. Under this strategy, Hella is cooperating with its independent suppliers for select projects in order to globally provide an attractive and innovative alternative compared to the biggest tier 1 suppliers.

## The Challenge

Light and Electronics for the automotive industry as well as parts suppliers to the after-market are the core business fields of Hella KGaA, with its group headquarters in Lippstadt, Germany.

Hella ranks as one of the 100 largest German industrial companies. Approximately 23,000 people are employed at more than 65 manufacturing facilities, production subsidiaries and joint ventures throughout the world. More than 2,000 engineers and technicians work in research and development. Hella’s customers include all leading automotive and system manufacturers, as well as the automotive parts trade.

“Our first goal was to provide version control for projects” says Mr. Jürgen Belz, Head of Automotive Software Standards at Hella, who is responsible for processes, methods, tools, quality and supplier management in the software division. Mr. Belz adds, “The goal was clear - we sought to foster



cooperation within the project teams and increase security planning, to maintain control over a growing project portfolio which is doubling annually. Another very important goal is to reach specific SPICE Levels, and progress through each level in a one year time-frame.

The quality of the software itself facilitated the choice of PTC. Total cost of ownership was very good on the operational side for PTC compared to the competition. The implementation and maintenance expenses amortized very quickly.

## The Solution

Hella began its relationship with PTC with an implementation of the client-based configuration management software solution called Integrity.

At the beginning, small projects were created under version control. After those projects were concluded successfully, all remaining projects were developed under Integrity, and the number of projects increased significantly over a short period of time. Thanks to the early implementation of PTC; it was possible to allow for the enormous growth of the projects in future years.

It soon became necessary to migrate the worldwide Hella corporate group to Integrity based on our positive experience with the tools coupled with our own increasing requirements. The enterprise suite was implemented including software configuration management, the Federated Server Architecture (FSA) for worldwide distributed development, in addition to Integrity Manager for process and workflow management.

Development within Hella is centrally organized by the Hella HQ in Lippstadt, Germany. By using the FSA technology, the following locations were connected:



- Behr-Hella Thermocontrol GmbH; Lippstadt
- Intedis GmbH & Co. KG; Würzburg
- Hella Electronics Corp; Plymouth, MA (USA)
- Hella Micron Engineering GmbH; Neutrabling
- Hella Inc.; Peachtree City, GA (USA)
- Hella Shanghai Development Electronic (HDSE)



There are three main elements of the solution for Hella. The first is the version control of Integrity across all international locations. Second, worldwide workflow management is organized using Integrity Manager. This allows a differentiation between 'enhancements' and 'issues'. The third important element is the compilation of metrics using Integrity Manager. With Integrity, Hella can enforce and collect process parameters based on, and required for Spice. For example, a list of open issues can be created at any time, which assures a higher level of comprehensibility. Integrity Manager allows for a high degree of configuration and customization. Because of its ease of use and end-user satisfaction there is an increased number of requests to reproduce activities and processes with Integrity.

### The Results

"Integrity is the backbone of Hella's development activities. It would be impossible to facilitate projects of this magnitude, under such tight time constraints, without this solution. It allows for better, faster, and easier collaboration. Integrity has enabled us to become compliant with SPICE Level 3. It is our internal integration platform, bringing together our complete process environment.

This was achieved thanks to the easy conversion of workflows in Integrity Manager, as well as the web browser's ease of use.

It has become much easier for each individual to plan ahead, since employees can now see the tasks that will be coming their way and which tasks need to be completed in a specific timeframe. The cooperation within teams has improved and we have become more efficient. Projects are more visible and therefore deadlines are being met at a higher degree.

Integrity guarantees that we are above average with our external client assessments. By using Integrity we are able to provide different valid sets of numbers, not only for assessments but also for project tracking.

Furthermore, the functional security based on the industry standard IEC 61508 is very important, especially in light of our cooperation with security conscious partners. We have also significantly reduced development time for each project. Now we only need 2/3 of a 3-year development cycle with a significant increase in scope per project. Currently we are coping with a doubling of projects on an annual basis and Integrity Manager is a great help coping with this increase workload.

We see future deployment of Integrity to all of the remaining Hella locations, which represents a great challenge and opportunity, and we are thinking about integrating additional tools such as the SAP Integration from Integrity.

Finally, we see Integrity playing a key role in our philosophy of 'software as a project' enabling Hella to deliver functionally optimized products that set new standards and make our company the market leader in its core competency fields, constantly re-define the limits of what is achievable and to shorten innovation cycles.

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**"Thanks to the early implementation of Integrity, it was possible to allow for the enormous growth of the projects in the future years"**

- Jürgen Belz, Hella

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