Connecting Plants around the World

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The central R&D entity is composed of the Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering and Jigs & Tools departments. The mission of this entity is to develop the new products introduction plus the associated manufacturing process (jigs & instructions) to allow the product assembly in the chosen plant for the serial production, meeting the NRC and RC targets defined during the bid.

All along the development, Latecoere deploys its internal process based on milestones with gates and deliverables. At the end of the development phase (PPAP milestone), a handover is put in place with the plant. This development process allows the plants to appropriate the future product and production system and force the engagement of all plant resources to understand the new assembly line layouts and instructions as soon as possible.

The ESI software IC-IDO is clearly helping Latecoere in its strategy to support the development across the world of our products by bringing the Manufacturing Engineering on the same virtual platform. It also allows the check of the access and the feasibility of the assembly, take into account the constraints from the plants and train the operators, inspectors, ME,… prior receiving the physical elements.

Latecoere has done a proof of concept with this software on the Boeing KC-46 door that was won in Built to Print in December 2018 with a production in LMX and a 1st delivery in February 2020. The IC.IDO collaborative mode was a key point of this achievement. This POC was clearly a success and Latecoere is looking forward to deploy this software on all the new programs we won recently in Design & Build.
Latecoere is now integrating the Virtual Reality in our development process, on dedicated use cases with all the stakeholders.

The covid situation has brought additional constraints in this environment. With the travel restriction around the world, the Manufacturing Engineering development team is forced to over communicate with the plants. An early adoption of IC.IDO allowed us to maintain our activity level.