



TAP Haystack Developers

The Automation Partnership (TAP) is a leader in the design, development and implementation of automation solutions for the pharmaceutical industry.

Business Problem

TAP was asked by a major pharmaceutical company to provide a fully automated solution to the problem of storing and managing its library of compounds. Given the large number of compounds involved and the necessity of providing accurate management whilst at the same time ensuring high processing throughput this project has become the largest and one of the most important projects that TAP has undertaken to date.

Tessella Solution

The work at TAP covers many angles. The scientists require an inventory management system through which they can order specific compounds. The operators, those responsible for ensuring that the scientists' orders are processed correctly, require simple touch screen user interfaces via which they can manage machinery. Finally, software is required that can directly control the machines in an efficient and safe manner.

To aid these needs, Tessella has been involved in many specific areas of the development within TAP's software group: infrastructure enhancements including a new UI framework, extended machine control facilities, new UI application development and test plan creation. This work has required expertise in C++, VB, MFC, COM, ATL and STL, all of which are used extensively throughout TAP's code base.

The inventory management system is a Web based application providing a series of screens through which detailed orders for specific compounds can be placed. Written in VB, this ActiveX application interfaces to an Oracle database.

Tessella staff developed a C++ infrastructure that ensures that the touch screen user interfaces have a uniform look and feel. This approach has two clear advantages. For operators, the uniformity of the look and feel of these screens enhances the usability of the system. For TAP, the new infrastructure greatly increases the speed at which their own software engineers can develop user interfaces for new systems.



Tessella also created several complex interfaces using this infrastructure as well as assisting with some underlying machine control components and advising on processes.

Moreover, Tessella's involvement on various internal technical teams at TAP has benefited our customer on a company-wide basis.

Results and Benefits

The Tessella developers at TAP have helped to ensure that this large project ran on time and to budget. Working closely within the large TAP software team they contributed their technical knowledge and experience to enhance the quality and efficiency of the project.

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