Legally watertight use of materials with DataCross

The material compliance software DataCross is the first to enable the material-related requirements arising from regulations like REACH, RoHS etc. to be holistically mapped and evaluated within a company. These requirements of relevance for product liability can thus be implemented from the development stage via the procurement and production through to the use and processing, putting companies in a position where they can guarantee the conformity of their products with applicable laws and customer requirements while minimizing their own business-related and personal risks.

(Saarbruecken, 08 July 2016) tec4U-Solutions GmbH has been successfully operating a material data communication platform for many years in the form of MDS.web, while also helping companies integrate material compliance in their processes, and supporting them in the operative communication of material-related data, in parallel. Now, tec4U-Solutions has initiated a new development that is based on MDS.web, goes by the name of DataCross, and not only rigorously implements DIN EN 50581 – as already realized in MDS.web – but will also already take effect at the development stage within the company process. A new risk assessment module, for example, already enables potential new suppliers and their deliveries to be vetted for material compliance in the early stages of creating a product. By supporting the registration and quantification of substance-related risks, the module also makes it easier to avoid them.

The name DataCross refers to the crossing of data communication with compliance assessment, i.e. the software's two key contents. That this will not only cater to "commonplace" regulations such as REACH and RoHS is demonstrated by the regulation module's impressive cadastre of 15 sets of rules that have been evaluated in a material-specific manner, for example including the Drinking Water or Timber Ordinance, Medical Devices Act, or requirements concerning conflict materials. The

developers of DataCross have paid particular attention to ensuring the expandability of this regulations module so that new, customer-specific regulatory requirements can be integrated quickly.

Modularity – a decisive system factor in DataCross

A customizable questionnaire module enables the material compliance-related qualification of a supplier and/or general product information to be scrutinized at various levels of detail. It thus provides valuable information for assessing the material compliance risk of the real-life supplier or supplier product, and serves as a first indicator for assessing the actual product risk. The sensitive supplier relationship management system already familiar from MDS.web is more refined in DataCross and permits suppliers to be addressed in a targeted manner based on the knowledge gained from the risk assessment and questionnaire. Another plug-in is focussed on the trade with and import of substances regulated by REACH (SVHC candidate substances). Imported quantities need to be accounted for or simulated here so that possible registration requirements can be estimated. The fact that every customer is offered an individual solution will from now on enable smaller companies, for example, to implement their material data communication and its evaluation with minimal cost and training by way of the Basic Version. Larger companies who also wish to safeguard their development process and also require further-reaching information in their supplier communications can meanwhile rely on tec4U's Professional Version. The (semi-) automatic review of products or supplier articles helps to save human resources and thereby contributes to improving the system's cost effectiveness.

Excellent system and research partners guarantee future viability

To make sure that DataCross also meets the latest standards in technical software terms, tec4U-Solutions GmbH has entered into a cooperation agreement with Mansystems. Mansystems Deutschland GmbH is an independent solution and IT service provider that has been specializing in process automation and service management solutions for over 20 years. The company maintains locations in the Netherlands, Germany and South Africa. Besides highly qualified IT consultancy and

complete solutions for operative support, Mansystems also offers specialized integration solutions for linking third-party systems. Mansystems uses the Mendix platform, amongst others, as a visual and cloud-based development environment – a platform that DataCross will also be based on in future. The clients of Mansystems Deutschland GmbH include medium-sized businesses, international corporations and public institutions. This partnership is flanked by the SiCoCheC project, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Besides tec4U-Solutions and Mansystems, the project partners of SiCoCheC also include the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) and CBA GmbH, a laboratory for chemical product consultancy and analysis. The DFKI is most of all contributing cutting-edge research contents to the software, while CBA provides comprehensive knowledge about materials. DataCross has also set itself ambitious targets where the software technology is concerned for this reason. It will be possible in future, for example, to choose between storing the product information in a cloud or rather processing it on own servers in the DataCross in-house system. That the "cloud" system at a European location can be regarded as a safe application nowadays is demonstrated by Mendix's references, which include many bank and insurance applications. The security standards in question will also be available for DataCross in future. An additional benefit for the security aspect is provided by the strict segregation between application and data base, and the customer-specific instances in combination with a far-reaching authorization system.

Further project partners from industry wanted

Interested companies are invited to contribute own ideas to the software development before September 1, 2016. There will be an opportunity to get to know the first prototype of DataCross at the beginning of 2017. DataCross proper will be available for order from mid-2017. This invitation by tec4U-Solutions GmbH to play an active part in the design of DataCross is most of all extended to groups of companies who have not found their needs realized in the existing data communication systems to an adequate extent yet.

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Links to further information:

http://www.data-cross.eu

Glossary:

DIN EN 50581: A VDE standard that serves as a RoHS implementation guideline and is an accepted technical standard for implementing material compliance.

RoHS: 2011/65/EU (RoHS II) and previously 2002/95/EC (RoHS): EC Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

REACH: Regulation 1907/2006/EC concerning the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals. SVHC (substances of very high concern) are substances that are classified as dangerous and considered to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction, persistent or bioaccumulative.