



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Real time wireless plant monitoring and safety management system from VRcontext and Luxoft Labs

VRcontext and Luxoft Labs joined their efforts to build a real time wireless plant monitoring and safety management system based on two companies' innovative platforms: Walkinside™ & MeshNetics™.

Management of complex industrial plants requires extensive monitoring and control of the plant machinery and environment to ensure process effectiveness, minimise downtimes and comply with stringent health and safety regulations. To this effect VRcontext has launched a new application line called ProcessLife, which is built on top of Walkinside™. The application was demonstrated at DaratechPLANT2005 conference which took place in Houston, TX, USA between the 24th and 26th of January 2005.

ProcessLife

ProcessLife is monitoring of facility and processes using a virtual replica as reference model. The application ties process, safety and maintenance engineers together. They use ProcessLife and pull in data from their work-function specific databases. With the addition of Meshnetics™ devices new control points can effortlessly and cost-effectively be installed and integrated with a visualisation system.

"ProcessLife works 24/7 and from the first implementation of the system we are confident that communication, coordination and collaboration will improve ten-fold" adds Jean Gillet, VP Sales & Marketing. "The first implementation at a major owner/operator has been a big success – and we are currently working on expanding the ProcessLife application to integrate new and other sources of data like GIS data".

The ProcessLife applications have been developed on the basis of adding functionality, in particular real time bases connectivity, to Walkinside™, the flagship product of VRcontext. The requests for these additions have come from the oil & gas, automotive and aerospace sectors.

M2M and Wireless Sensor Networks

Current monitoring solutions are based on hard-wired sensors which are costly and often difficult to install and integrate with the existing monitoring systems. The evolution of M2M (Machine to Machine) technologies opens up new opportunities for better functionality, reduce costs and provide competitive breakthrough for various industries.

Luxoft Labs and VRcontext have developed a solution by integrating MeshNetics™ real time monitoring solution with Walkinside™ real time visualisation system. It enables plant managers to improve the monitoring and control practices through:

- ✎ Extending monitoring to the remote area with poor access, or to the areas where traditional wired sensors installations are not feasible
- ✎ Reducing costs associated with a re-installation of monitoring systems as a result of a modified layout or new equipment installation
- ✎ Presenting the data from the monitoring units onto a 3D model of the industrial plant to enable real time problem location and prompt response

Design, Construction and Production?

Production processes are not stationary; on the contrary, they change continuously. New equipment upgrades, changing product lines, increasing environmental awareness and global competition require plant managers to adopt new methods in plant monitoring and safety management.



The joint solution based on ProcessLife enables plant managers to adopt a plant infrastructure to make way for new production practices and legal requirements at low cost and over a short period of time.

MeshNetics™ control devices installed at critical points of a plant provide a complete and precise overview of the plant equipment, environment and processes. Furthermore, the monitored objects are visualised at their physical location in Walkinside™ and are shown in the virtual replica of the facility. Due to simplicity of moving MeshNetics™ control devices and moving the corresponding images in Walkinside process, engineers are getting a new set of tools to monitor plant operations in a real time and effortlessly modify the monitoring tools to address relevant changes in the monitoring process.

Natasha Starkell, Vice President of Business Development at Luxoft Labs says, "We are very excited to provide plant managers and engineers with these revolutionary tools to increase the effectiveness of their operations, flexibility of their processes and competitiveness of their businesses."

"We started this project thinking about safety and especially refurbishments/modifications in ready built facilities" says Jean Gillet, VP Sales & Marketing, VRcontext "But, we have gained so much more – the possibilities are endless and we see a great potential".

Safety Management

The integrated solution is also aimed at providing an additional level of safety at building sites within a facility. A grid fire sensors can be placed around the construction site and they will communicate alerts wirelessly which will be displayed by Walkinside™. The safety processes and procedures are aided as they can rely on the sensor grid for safety within the work site. Other monitoring devices such as strain gauges or chemical sensors can be distributed throughout the plant, and measure more complex structural safety and presence of hazardous materials.

What is Meshnetics™?

Luxoft Labs MeshNetics™ Platform enables innovative M2M solutions for remote monitoring, control and tracking of a wide range of processes, assets, systems and facilities. It frees businesses from costly "static" wired systems. MeshNetics™ Expert Wireless Sensor Networks deploy both proprietary and standard (IEEE 802.15.4) short range wireless nodes, integrate them with sensors and other monitoring units and transmit collected data to the data center over a various gateways, including GSM, GPRS, GPS, RFID or a regular Internet connectivity.

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Topic: Wireless Plant Monitoring & Safety Management Solution: Integration of Walkinside and MeshNetics platforms
Companies: VRcontext
Luxoft Labs
Availability: Now
Price: Quote

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Walkinside™ (www.walkinside.com)

Walkinside™ is a leading software application for the real time virtual reality market. The software is able to instantly render very large, complex, computer generated 3D models. The software is targeted towards Energy, Homeland security & defence and Aerospace markets. The technology behind Walkinside's™ patented Real-Time Collision Detection and Gravity Simulation technology allows the users to immediately and effortlessly explore virtual reality generated models in contrast to other visualization applications that only offer a complicated, non-intuitive walkthrough.

Walkinside™ is useful for project reviews, simulation facilities (VR centres), facility maintenance programs, safety and security training exercises; all being delivered in real-time, multi-users, LAN and Internet environments.

About VRcontext (www.vrcontext.com)

A spin-off from Tractebel Energy Engineering (Suez Group), VRcontext was formed to bring the power and enhanced realism of Walkinside™ virtual reality technology to the market place. VRcontext is committed to providing their customers with the most technologically advanced, cost-effective software products for visiting and interacting with the largest of 3D models.

For more information, please contact: Mr. Jean Gillet, VP – Sales & Marketing at +32 (0) 2 644 38 23 or at j.gillet@vrcontext.com

Or (incl. illustrations/artwork): Mr. Jesper PM Baunsgaard, MARCOM Manager at +32 (0) 2 644 38 23 or at j.baunsgaard@vrcontext.com

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MeshNetics™ Wireless Solutions

MeshNetics™ Platform includes software components, hardware designs, algorithms, and solutions that enable next generation of M2M applications based on open systems and standards. By adding a self-healing, self-learning "Expert" system into monitoring, control, and tracking applications, we open up new possibilities optimized for the specific needs of an industry. While staying focused on business core domains, our customers and partners can achieve reduced costs, shorter time to market, enhanced competitiveness and reduce risks by using MeshNetics™ Family of products and services.

About Luxoft Labs www.luxoftlabs.com

Founded in 2001, Luxoft Labs (IBS Group) enables complete M2M solutions by providing wireless ad-hoc mesh-networks software, hardware and integration services. Luxoft Labs helps its partners and customers to accelerate time-to-market by creating and jointly deploying components and complete M2M solutions for industry automation, building automation, utility and retail. Company cross-disciplinary teams deliver innovative and market-ready solutions by identifying, investigating, and further developing viable emerging technologies and the latest scientific research.

Company has offices in London (UK), Seattle (USA) and Moscow (Russia).

For more information, please contact: Ms. Anastasia Shkinina, Marketing Manager at ashkinina@luxoft.com

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