



Digital Manufacturing Powers a Better Way to Build Trucks

With digital manufacturing, Daimler Trucks North America:



Improved visibility to help increase business agility and minimize production issues



Better mobile communication, helping maximize uptime



Enhanced asset tracking, making operations more efficient

For Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA), success isn't just about controlling costs. It's about building an agile company that can deliver exactly what the market demands—today and tomorrow. Its Western Star brand of trucks are tailored to every customer's needs, but this level of customization presents a logistical challenge in a mass production environment.

DTNA decided that it needed to upgrade the network in its Western Star production facility in Portland, Oregon, to better coordinate customizations and support flexible and efficient operations, both now and in the future.

DTNA chose Cisco and Rockwell Automation as strategic partners, designing and deploying a new network based on the Converged Plantwide Ethernet (CPwE) validated design guides. Cisco Aironet® access points deliver secure and reliable Wi-Fi connectivity across the plant. Team

leaders and supervisors can communicate reliably over wireless phones to manage production on the floor. Wireless devices, such as iPads, can be used to confirm the truck configurations, check part supply levels, retrieve parts from the warehouse, and confirm truck status in real time.

By combining IT and automation networks into one secure, manageable, and converged environment, DTNA managers gain real-time visibility across processes. Data is transmitted securely to managers, helping them make better, faster decisions that keep plants running efficiently. Software-defined networking (SDN) also supports remote troubleshooting to minimize downtime when equipment needs maintenance or repair.

The joint architecture scales to any size or configuration, allowing DTNA to use the Western Star factory as a template, which it is rolling out across other factories.

“We produce and collect a massive amount of data to understand where we are during the assembly of the truck. Now we can provide dashboard information to management, stay informed about any parts shortages, and know the status of the vehicle in real time, any time.”

Dieter Haban
CIO, Daimler Trucks North America

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