



BUSINESS CASE

Latesys

• AUTOMATION • AEROSPACE • INDUSTRY 4.0



Testimonial from **Éric Mercier**, Technical Manager at Latesys.

“They provided the IT expertise we were missing internally, in perfect synergy”



A need for **super-fast response times** to solve a **complex automation problem**



The decisive contribution of **IT project management expertise** in an industrial context



Rebooting the existing development to **go beyond the initial objectives**

The company: Latesys

This specialist aeronautical engineering consultancy, formerly known as Latécoère Services, is now a part of the ADF group. Based in Toulouse, Latesys provides France's flagship aerospace companies such as Airbus (its A350 assembly line) and Safran with leading-edge expertise in the field of production optimisation.

During the assembly phase of developing the Airbus group's new helicopter, the H160, Latesys encountered problems programming a leading-edge AGV (Automatic Guided Vehicle) that had been custom-designed for the project. Latesys Technical Manager **Éric Mercier** takes a look back at this project and explains how it was put back on track with assistance from Agileo Automation.

“Our first reaction was to call on an IT services company”

During the Airbus H160 helicopter assembly phase, problems arose with the delicate task of programming an AGV (Automated Guided Vehicle) that Airbus wished to develop in line with the transition to Industry 4.0. Automated assistants of this type are used extensively at Amazon, but are much more scarce in the aerospace sector on account of the greater complexity required. The AGV that was custom-designed for the H160 project was a case in point: the skills of a large number of players were required in order to commission it.

“Programming the AGV involved some highly specific IT development work. The consultants we had appointed to do it pulled out of the project when their company stopped operating in the field of AGVs. There was still a huge amount of code to be written, and we didn't have people with the requisite programming expertise in-house.

Our first reaction was to call on an IT services company, which duly sent us a consultant who was proficient in Python but clearly lacked the ability to analyse the existing situation and actively seek new solutions. He turned out to be more of a doer than a thinker... We soon realised that that wasn't the right way forward”.

“Expertise that made all the difference”

At that point a new player who would prove to be decisive in solving the AGV problem came on the scene. The Agileo consultancy, which was “called to the rescue”, as Éric Mercier puts it, mobilised its expert Olivier Vittu straight away and he set to work at the site (in Marignane, near Marseille) two weeks after the initial contact had been made.

Benefits

- A rapid response to a complex problem related to Industry 4.0
- Project management using DevOps, which played a decisive role in successfully programming the AGV
- Proactivity, combined with an ability to take a fresh look at an existing situation

About Agileo Automation

A long-time expert in the semiconductors sector, Agileo Automation facilitates the interconnection between the operative parts and the IT systems of factories. Fully attuned to the needs of Industry 4.0, its A²ECF framework ensures seamless coordination between the products to be made, the manufacturing orders issued by the MES and the operative parts of the machinery. Agileo provides technical assistance or fixed-cost development services to OEMs, mainly in Europe.

“We needed a hand to get the project back on track. At the outset I didn't want to go back over all the work that had already been done, so we assigned another person to continue supervising the development project. But Agileo's expertise was what made all the difference.” Thanks to the DevOps approach instigated by Agileo, the sticking point related to programming the AGV was overcome. Trial phases were developed without having to wait until machinery was available, while the agile operating method first enabled the problems to be solved and then went beyond the initial requirements. *“Olivier told me: “we're going to have to go a lot further than you thought”, and offered to pursue his Python project in parallel. And in going about that he succeeded in moving the AGV, which we had not managed to do up to then.”*

“Without them, we would still be trying to work it out”

“We decided to put our complete trust in Agileo and hand the development project over to them. And they didn't let us down. The deadlines were met. Without them, we would still be trying to work it out.”

Latesys also appointed other members of the Agileo team to perform tasks including redesigning a graphic interface that was posing problems. *“Agileo's expertise is something we sorely lack in-house. On that project we weren't looking to be more self-sufficient after they left. We do industrial IT, which is not the same thing as pure IT. But Latesys and Agileo worked in perfect synergy throughout the entire project.”*