



Patria Belgium Engine Center (BEC): Going Paperless with Solumina MRO

► Customer Profile

iBase-t Customer: Patria BEC

Industry: Aerospace & Defense – Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO)

Primary Work: Overhaul, cleaning, NDI/NDT, repairs, trading, and engineering for Pratt & Whitney F100 engines

Challenge: Patria BEC needed to modernize their highly customized SAP system after separation from the main business unit, facing a tight six-month deadline before their SAP license expired.



The Challenge

Patria BEC was operating on a highly customized version of SAP and needed to modernize after their company was pulled away from the main business unit. With only six months before their SAP license expired, they needed a new solution that could:

- Replace legacy customizations with a modern, out-of-the-box system
- Support a paperless MRO environment
- Minimize human error while ensuring compliance
- Deliver faster turnaround times for critical defense programs

The search was urgent: Patria BEC required a solution that was proven, purpose-built for MRO, and could be deployed with confidence.

The Evaluation

Patria BEC launched a structured evaluation of six vendors, shortlisting three. Over a 2.5-month process, they used detailed criteria to assess fit:

- **Functional coverage (35%)**
- **Approach (25%)** – project plan, implementation timeline, team
- **User interface (20%)** – look, feel, reporting, navigation
- **Technical abilities (10%)** – integration, flexibility, cloud readiness
- **Vendor evaluation (10%)** – commitment, industry knowledge, references

The evaluation team included cross-functional power users—quality, engineering, supply chain, account management, purchasing, customer support, and production—guided by an external project manager and three iBase-t experts.

32 user activities were rated in detail, with Solumina scoring highest overall.



The Solution

Patria BEC selected Solumina MRO to support its digital transformation. Because of the complexity of their processes, the team leaned into a one-year implementation, allowing time for testing before go-live.

Key decisions included:

- Using out-of-the-box functionality as much as possible, adding only a few specialized features
- Designing test cases to capture potential human error during the paper-to-digital shift
- Careful planning for data migration, ensuring accuracy and reliability
- Preparing staff with digital work instructions and workflow refinements

Cutover was executed in a single weekend—described by the team as the smoothest go-live in their experience.

The Outcomes

By moving to Solumina MRO, Patria BEC achieved measurable results:

- **Paperless MRO operations** with simplified processes
- **20% faster average assembly turnaround time** (up to 30% in some areas)
- **Reduced human errors** through digital workflows
- Direct **access to actionable data** for continuous improvement
- Strong **collaboration with iBase-t to optimize processes** over time

Lessons Learned

Patria BEC captured critical best practices from their implementation:

- **Dedicated iBase-t and internal teams** are essential for success
- **Thorough test cases** uncover inefficient workflows before go-live
- **Be realistic with timelines**—complexity requires more time, but the payoff is worth it
- **Plan for data migration challenges** with patience and precision
- **Allow time for people to adapt**—the human factor is just as important as the technology



About iBase-t

iBase-t is the global leader in cloud software for the aerospace and defense industry. Committed to innovation, customer success, and product excellence, iBase-t ensures digital continuity across manufacturing, quality, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations on a global scale. iBase-t's Solumina Manufacturing Operations Platform is a cloud-native solution that establishes a digital ecosystem to drive innovation and improve operational performance for the most critically complex manufacturers. iBase-t customers include Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, GE Aerospace, Rolls Royce, Pratt & Whitney, and Textron.

The Solumina Manufacturing Operations Platform by iBase-t consists of an integrated suite of MES, SQM, and MRO solutions. Designed for complex, highly regulated discrete manufacturers who seek to digitally transform their operations, Solumina connects manufacturing operations, quality, and sustainment management in a seamless flow of data across the value chain and product lifecycle.

The Solumina Manufacturing Operations Platform creates the technology infrastructure manufacturers need to harness advances in model-based functionality like PMI continuity, Assisted Engineering Changes and augmented reality guidance for the workforce, IIoT connectivity for equipment, new levels of intelligence for decision making, and higher levels of customer and supply chain collaboration.

Learn more at ibaset.com.



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