



The graphical user interface of DEOS NMS - here seen during the FIAT - has been developed in close co-operation with end-users

It Is Possible!

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Software development makes many people think about failed projects. However, developing projects within a short timeline IS possible. The DEOS NMS software works and end-users are pleased with the results.

This conclusion is based on a partnership with the Danish Army Materiel Command (HMAK), The Danish Army Operational Command (HSS) and Systematic Software Engineering. The latter has developed a Network Management System (NMS) for the Danish Army's communications network (DEOS). DEOS NMS supports the signal units' planning, execution and monitoring of the communications system.

The project started with the drafting of Operative End-user Demands (OED) that were delivered to HMAK December 2002. In August 2003, HMAK signed a contract with Systematic for the delivery of the system after a tender.

Partnership

The contract between HMAK and Systematic is based on the principle of partnership. This includes sharing the same goal - a functional product delivered on time. Equally important is a good rapport between supplier and customer, which was evident in this project at the workshops and the almost daily contact between the two organisations.

Project in Two Phases

The project has been planned in two phases and has been conducted under a tight timeline. The first phase was completed this January where DEOS NMS passed the Field Acceptance Test (FIAT).

The next phase will include further development of the NMS functionality as well as a plan to exchange information with the Danish Army Command and Control Information System (DACCIS).

As DACCIS is based on information standards which have been agreed for use in the Multilateral Interoperability Programme (MIP), these standards will form the basis for achieving interoperability between DACCIS and DEOS NMS.

First BMS based on MIP Concept

DEOS NMS is the first Battlefield Management System (BMS) based on MIP specifications and the Army Operational Command (HOK) has decided that the same demands for interoperability will be placed on all future BMS for the army.

Hence DEOS NMS constitutes "Proof of Concept": two independent suppliers, Maersk Data Defence and Systematic, have developed different systems according to the same principles which enable data exchange when integrated. At the same time, this is seen as a unique opportunity for the two companies to demonstrate this concept and their respective solutions to potential customers.

Network Enabled Capabilities

It is the responsibility of The Army's Operational Command (from Jan. 2006 The Army Combat Support School) to ensure that all future information systems are able to exchange data and information according to the above mentioned MIP concept. This will form the technological foundation of network enabled capabilities internationally as well as nationally.

No Routines

Right from the start of the DEOS NMS project, it has been pointed out to the supplier that the army did not wish to maintain or lock previous routines. Systematic has been given the opportunity to design an open system capable of handling new procedures as it naturally evolve.

The Army's Operational Command has carried out a workshop with the end-users to explore the launch and use of DEOS NMS. This kind of close cooperation with the end-users to gain their ideas and suggestions on how the system is developed is expected to increase once the system is operational.

The Future

The future perspective regarding DEOS NMS is a development towards handling more communications systems such as HF, VHF, SATCOM etc.

Cooperation with other nations is also a possibility, as several have already shown an interest in both the signal operational area and DEOS NMS.