

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PDES, Inc. - in collaboration with Lockheed Martin, RTX and Northrop Grumman - Accelerates Time to Market with Persistent ID Initiative to Advance Digital Thread Interoperability

Dallas, TX — April 6, 2026 - [PDES, Inc.](#) today announced that [Northrop Grumman](#) has joined as a participating member, increasing momentum of its Persistent ID Initiative, driven by PDES, Inc. founding member [Lockheed Martin](#). PDES, Inc. is the leading international consortium focused on advancing digital engineering standards and interoperability,

“Lockheed Martin is advancing towards a scalable, data-driven, model-based enterprise that transforms design into production faster than ever before. Persistent IDs are a vehicle to build the digital thread not only between design and manufacturing within Lockheed Martin, but also with other members across the aerospace and defense industry. Our collaboration underscores the importance of coalescing around digital engineering standards to drive greater interoperability, security and innovation.” David Tatro, vice president of Operations Transformation, Lockheed Martin.

“As the aerospace and defense industry continues to invest in digital engineering, the need for aligned standards and true interoperability has never been more urgent,” said Asa Trainer, Technical Lead for the initiative. “With 30 years of experience in model-based engineering and standards development, I’ve seen how disconnected data limits scalability. This collaboration ensures that ISO [STEP AP242](#) and [QIF](#) evolve in sync, enabling persistent, traceable product data that drives efficiency, quality, and speed to market.”

OEM participation from Lockheed Martin, [RTX](#), [Pratt & Whitney](#), and Northrop Grumman underscores the growing industry demand for collaborative standardization and synchronized data exchange across the digital thread, specifically aligning ISO STEP AP242, [MTConnect](#), and QIF standards to ensure consistent, reliable product definition from design through manufacturing and inspection.

“Northrop Grumman is committed to advancing the digital engineering ecosystem, and the PDES Persistent ID initiative is a critical step in making that vision a reality. By establishing UUID-based traceability across STEP AP242 and other standards, we are enabling the kind of seamless, closed-loop data exchange that accelerates our ability to develop, certify, and sustain products at the speed our customers demand.” Art Arsenault, Director, Engineering & Manufacturing Solutions.

Recent technical research conducted under the PDES, Inc. PID Project has demonstrated 100% UUID-based traceability between STEP AP242, MTConnect, and QIF can be achieved, enabling a complete digital thread that connects CAD geometry, PMI, manufacturing, inspection and results.

The PID initiative brings together a global ecosystem of aerospace OEMs, software providers, and standards organizations to solve one of the most critical barriers to digital engineering on scale: PID and traceability of product features across systems and lifecycle stages.

Technology and software participants include [Hexagon](#), [Mitutoyo](#), [Kubotek](#), [Datakit](#), [Elysium](#), [CoreTechnologie](#), [nVariate](#), [Istari Digital](#), [Mastercam](#), and [Sandvik](#), with standards collaboration from ISO, [DMSC](#), [ASME](#), MTConnect, and subject matter experts at [Action Engineering](#). The CAD platform contributions of [PTC](#) and [Dassault](#) have been instrumental to the initiatives.

Industry best practices for persistent identification enable closed-loop digital workflows from design through inspection and will promote the acceleration of model-based enterprise adoption.

---

## **About PDES, Inc.**

PDES, Inc. is a not-for-profit consortium dedicated to developing and maintaining ISO 10303 standards for product data representation and exchange, as well as LOTAR standards for long-term archiving and retrieval of product data. By connecting the digital enterprise, PDES, Inc. helps organizations achieve seamless interoperability across their supply chains. For more information, visit <https://pdesinc.org>.