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Geneva, July 3, 2008

Dear Mathias,  
please find below a statement relative to the services you provided us with during the EDMS project.

CERN started a PLM selection project in 1996 to manage the engineering data for the global LHC project, and made a in-depth analysis of different system suppliers and the associated support offered. In this context we first met Mathias Zagel and rapidly realized that he already then had a thorough understanding of the underlying conceptual issues as well as of the state of the PLM software industry.

Since the selection of the PLM tool from Eigner (now Oracle) Mathias Zagel has helped the CERN implementation team, in highly-productive regular workshops, to translate our specific requirements into a successful corporate service. The system, today known as "EDMS", has more that 5.000 users spread around the world. The success of the implementation at CERN led the French national research organization CNRS/IN2P3 to install their own system which serves 20 national laboratories spread around France. A similar evolution is in progress in Germany where the large FAIR project at GSI in Darmstadt has adopted the CERN EDMS approach. The fact that the different implementations of EDMS have been made with exceedingly small teams can be traced back to the detailed analysis done at the project start-up. In this analysis effort the role of Mathias Zagel was crucial as the CERN team did not have any real experience of PLM systems. The approach we have taken under the guidance of Mathias Zagel has shown itself to be correct and he helped us to avoid many of the pitfalls often seen in literature and the professional press.

Many thanks again for your professional help and best regards

Thomas Pettersson  
EDMS Project leader  
TS Department Deputy Head