

# IMDS Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL  
MATERIAL DATA  
SYSTEM

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## Interview with Antje Heymann (IMDS Steering Committee)

The IMDS Steering Committee is the board within the IMDS which decides upon all commercial, strategic and operational issues around IMDS. The Steering committee consists of the funding IMDS Members (BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Opel/GM, Ford, Porsche, Volkswagen and Volvo). Meanwhile, Fiat, Toyota, Mitsubishi and Mazda joined the IMDS. Antje Heymann from General Motors Corp. is the current speaker of the IMDS Steering Committee. IMDS Newsletter met her in Rüsselsheim/Germany to discuss the setup of this Newsletter.



**Ilona Pollok:** Mrs. Heymann, the IMDS is now more than three years old. So far, there has only been communication to the IMDS user community through the system itself or in direct contact to the OEMs. Now you are initiating this Newsletter. What is the reason?

**Antje Heymann:** Until now the communication has not always reached our target group, i.e. the automotive suppliers. Even worse: there has been misinformation within the community. Let me give you an example: the prices for Download licenses are *not* set by EDS but by the Steering Committee - like all other commercial decisions concerning the IMDS. EDS designed and implemented today's IMDS according to the specifications given by the OEMs and is now operating the system on behalf of the OEMs. Therefore, EDS is signing the contracts on behalf of the Steering Committee e.g. concerning the Up- and Down-load licenses.

Furthermore, there have been service offers around the IMDS with an IMDS label which have nothing to do with the system. The result of all this is a misinformation about OEMs' requirements and processes within the IMDS. For this reason we decided to directly communicate to the user community. Part of this is an event program which we want to introduce next year and direct user groups. This Newsletter has to be seen as the first step and as an invitation for a dialogue.

**Ilona Pollok:** I think it would be interesting to know more about the tasks the IMDS Steering Committee is dealing with...

**Antje Heymann:** The IMDS Steering Committee consists of those car manufacturers who founded IMDS together with EDS plus those who joined since IMDS went live in 1999. Each OEM has named a contact person to whom general IMDS issues can be addressed [see in the right column – Who to contact?] Additionally, the responsible contact persons for each OEM can be found on the IMDS web pages. The members of the Steering Committee meet once a month for making decisions on all kind of IMDS issues – be it content related or system (=process) related questions. This includes recommendations on how to report certain materials as well as defining specifications for further functions to be implemented into IMDS. Another task is the discussion and release of the information, which is published on the web pages on the internet – and in this Newsletter.

**Ilona Pollok:** What will be the contents of this Newsletter?

**Antje Heymann:** What we mainly want to do is to meet the users' requirements in order to support them in providing the material data we (the OEMs) need to

## IMDS History

### June 2000

IMDS goes on-line.

### July 2001

Fiat joined the IMDS.

### September 2001

10,000 user registered.

### December 2001/January 2002

A questionnaire was put on-line about users' requirements – the results are available at <http://www.mdsystem.com/imds/html/admin/quest/questionnaire.jsp?language=en>.

### July 2002

Toyota joined the material community.

### 10.07.2002

On-line registration goes productive. Until today there have been 2,598 users from 1,319 companies used this registration system.

### September 2002

Mitsubishi joined the IMDS.

### October 2002

Mazda joined the IMDS.

### Today

33,013 users registered from 11,422 companies

fulfill the legal requirements. Therefore, we would like to get as much feedback as possible with suggestions for tasks and subjects to discuss in the following issues of this Newsletter. Additionally, we want to inform about IMDS what includes planned enhancements or changes. But even more important in this context is to inform about our intended policies on how to use the IMDS. Therefore we plan related reports from material experts and eventually even Presentations about the legal background relevant to IMDS.

**Ilona Pollok:** Can you tell us about the current plans for enhancements and/or changes?

**Antje Heymann:** This is more a topic for the specialists working on the application, I think, and there is a separate section related to this. But maybe I could tell you what the Steering Committee is discussing at the moment?

**Ilona Pollok:** This would give a good overview for the IMDS users...

**Antje Heymann:** The IMDS has grown considerably during the last months – there are about 10,500 companies registered with now more than 31,000 users. This is primarily due to the use of the application in North America and then also to the participation of the Japanese OEMs. This has led to certain operational difficulties: For example, we did not consider the North American Helpdesk sufficiently. This issue has been addressed and solved in the meantime. Furthermore, the globalization of IMDS demands a new structure within the Steering Committee to reflect the increased number of SC members and to ensure an accelerated decision making process at the same time.

Very important in our work are the discussions about the feedback and the suggestions we get from suppliers in order to improve IMDS features. Unfortunately, there is not much time left at the moment for the strategic issues. Since the beginning of the year there has been a study “IMDS New Generation” which contains many of the suppliers’ requests and suggestions. Unfortunately, it was not possible so far to start with its realization. There were too many day-to-day problems which have been more important. In this respect I think of the up- and down-load features – and this is only one of the subjects we want to realize by the end of the year...

**Ilona Pollok:** Thank you very much for this interview and the insights into the Steering Committees work.

## IMDS Public Pages available in Japanese

From 17. September 2002 the IMDS Public Pages are available in Japanese. Now IMDS offers public information in three languages: English, German and Japanese. The application itself is since 02. November 2002 prepared for data entry with a Japanese user interface. In the Log-on screen you can chose Japanese as application language.

## IMDS Changes in Release 1.8.4. and 1.9

- ✓ **MDS Delete** – MDSs can now be deleted disregarding their status. If an MDS should be deleted which has already been used, a logical delete is possible, i.e. the MDS can not be further used but is still available for MDSs where it was referenced. For more information see under Release Notes – Release 1.8.4.
- ✓ **Client Managers** have more **administrational rights** and can maintain all user data, e.g. reset a password from a user in their company. This allows more flexibility and less waiting time for the users.

For more information see under Release Notes – Release 1.8.4.

## Who to contact?

- Commercial and strategic IMDS issues → Steering Committee
- Operational technical issues → Helpdesks
- Operational content related issues (e.g. how do I report a certain material) → Contacts of OEMs as published on public pages:

### BMW

Dr. G. Papakostidis  
georg.papakostidis@bmw.de

### DaimlerChrysler

Dr. H. Traiser  
helmut.traiser@  
daimlerchrysler.com

### Fiat

Dr. C. Berruti  
claudia.berruti@fiat.com

### Ford

Dr. B. Schmitz  
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### General Motors

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### Mazda

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### Mitsubishi

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### Porsche

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### Toyota

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muriel.desaeger@toyota-  
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### Volkswagen

H. Lüssmann-Geiger  
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geiger@audi.de

### Volvo

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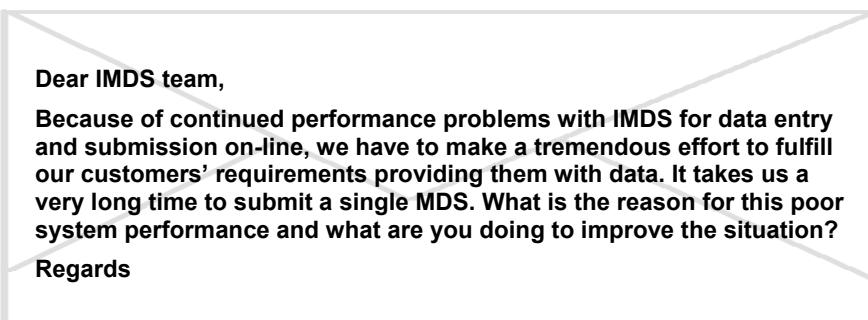
- ✓ The **up-to-date documentation on IMDS** can be downloaded from the Public Pages (under FAQs → Technical questions → “Is there any IMDS Training Material available?”). The documentation is available in German and English for Download. On request we can provide you with a Spanish version.

Furthermore, the documentation is currently translated into Czech and Italian.

- ✓ In the next IMDS **Release 1.9.1**, the following enhancements are planned:
  - **MDS Follow-up**, i.e. an MDS can be marked for automatic reminder within a certain period of time
  - **Basic substance list filtering**, i.e. according to the different list the basic substances of concern for the different companies will be highlighted in the structure tree
  - **Complete Data Down-load for suppliers**, i.e. until now this feature has only been used for OEMS but then a supplier company can license the down-load as well, work on the data in its In-house system and up-load these data back into IMDS.

### Users' Echo – emails to IMDS

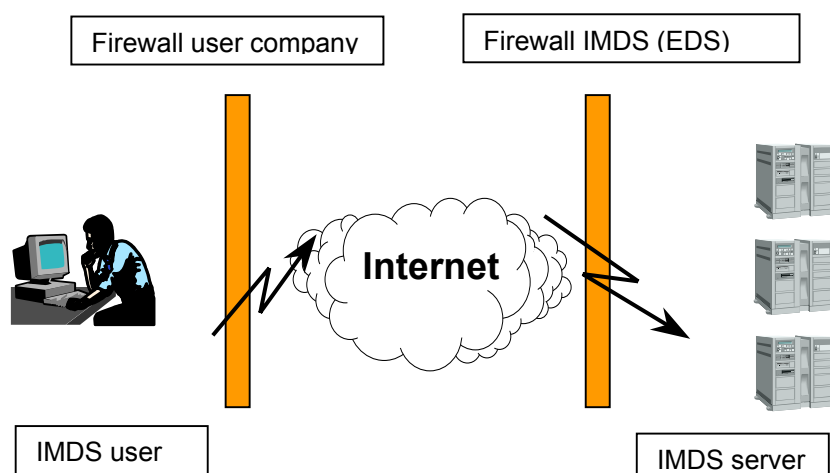
Very often we get questions about performance and up-load licenses – in this area we will answer some of the emails.



Please help us with your feedback. If you would like to contribute to this Newsletter with articles and comments concerning the IMDS and environmental issues in your company, please send an email to [imds-newsletter@eds.com](mailto:imds-newsletter@eds.com)

Dear IMDS user company,

The performance question is an issue often brought up. Unfortunately, performance is a very complex problem which has to be looked at in every special case.



When a user is working with IMDS three main network components are involved in the data transfer. The first part consists of the local network, the internet proxy and the network line to the Internet Server Provider (ISP) of the user's company.

The second part is the public Internet itself and the third part is the connection to EDS' ISP and through an EDS firewall until it reaches the IMDS servers.

The EDS network components are monitored 24h a day. The current usage is approx. 20%-25% of the available network bandwidth. The first and second component "Client network infrastructure" and "Internet" are out of EDS' influence, so we can only give recommendations.

From our experience it can be concluded that most of the problems exist within the client's network infrastructure. In many cases the bandwidth of the internet connection to the ISP was too slow. In other companies the proxy, firewall or router devices routing the traffic from/to the internet were too busy. In your case we would recommend to first contact your local network administrators and ISP to check the local infrastructure.

Working with IMDS a lot of data is exchanged between the client's browser and the IMDS servers. Each data package contains individual data; therefore, EDS must prevent the data from being cached in the client's infrastructure. This is the reason why IMDS behaves "heavier" than other (static) websites - their data might never leave the customers infrastructure because it is cached on the proxy.

With this background EDS recommends an average bandwidth of 64 Kbits/sec per IMDS user. If you want to know more about your specific problem, please, contact our help desks - they will forward your query to our specialists.

Best regards, the IMDS team

**Dear IMDS team,**

**We have heard about the possibility of up-loading data, but that would require an up-load license that is not included in the system. Why is this extra and not part of the IMDS? Would the upload license help solving our situation? We have about 7,000 MDSs to create and most of the data are already available in our In-house system - could the IMDS be linked to our In-house systems? This could save us an considerable amount of work. Thank you for a quick reply.**

**Best regards,**

Dear IMDS user company,

In this case an up-load-license can be considered a good alternative instead of manual entry. What concerns the interface to your in-house system we would provide this service.

The value of up-load / down-load interfaces for users with many data sheets has been seen since 2000 when the IMDS went productive. However, the IMDS is a non-commercial application. The costs behind these licenses represent development costs (i.e. an investment) and the day-to-day costs (load, help desk, memory, traffic etc.). Until now it was not possible to realize a business concept which is cost-neutral for the suppliers. In order to provide this service to the companies the licenses have been introduced. Nonetheless, at the recommendation of EDS a cost-neutral version for the suppliers is discussed and we hope that until the end of the year a solution will exist which is satisfactory for all parties and which at the same time guarantees that current license users are not at a disadvantage.

For further questions concerning up-load, please, do not hesitate to contact the responsible Automobile manufacturer's representative..

Best regards, the IMDS team

## Up-load interface

Concerning the Up-load of data into the IMDS: EDS can assist IMDS companies with integrating your current systems with IMDS. The IMDS Up-load feature uses XML (Extensible Markup Language). As there will be adjustments necessary in terms of programming etc. your company could make use of the Up-load license.

For prices, please, contact the responsible person at one of the OEMs (Public pages → Contact → Contacts at the car manufacturers). They can provide you with further information on Up-load possibilities.

**From now on one up-load license contains 5 user IDs (instead of one).**

**An automatic bulk sending of the up-loaded MDSs to the respective recipients is worked on.**

## DaimlerChrysler's „short reporting“ for MDSs by Dr. H. Traiser



In connection with the ELV Directive 2000/53/EC from July 2003 onwards the metals Lead, Cadmium, Mercury and Hexa-valent Chromium must not be used any more. Exceptions are listed in Annex II of the Directive. This does not only apply for newly developed parts but for the current production, too. For all the components it is absolutely necessary for us to have the information about their use in time in order to prove conformity with the legal requirements. In order to minimize the necessary data input some OEMs decided a “short reporting” in IMDS for the four substances. This is done by only reporting the parts or components in which one or more of the four substances are used. The rest of the materials are marked as “hazardous-substance-free” (Request /Hg/Cr6/Cd/Pb). Therefore, they have not to be specified in detail. In consequence, the components and semi-components consist of the substances ELV-Cadmium (Cd contents), ELV-CrVI (CrVI contents), ELV-Lead (Pb contents), ELV-Mercury (Hg contents) and a rest not containing any of these substances (Request/Hg/Cr6/Cd/Pb). An example for this short reporting can be found in the **FAQ section (General Questions): “When and how is “short reporting” possible?”**

For new / Initial Sample reports this short reporting must not be used – in these cases all materials have to be specified.

## News in brief

### New Release 1.9 productive since 02. November 2002

IMDS users might have experienced some difficulties working in the IMDS last Monday, 04. November 2002. After implementation of a new system software release we were forced to restart the Server in total 4 times over the day – this problem was solved by the software company and we were provided a patch. Apologies for all inconveniences.

### Company planner available

IMDS users can benefit from implementing the IMDS Organizational Hierarchy feature to consolidate all IMDS companies under one "roof" company. Benefits include:

- Analyze parts (e.g., for restricted substances) across entire organization
- Reuse MDS and modules throughout organization
- Requires only a single userID with access across your business units, rather than having to remember multiple userIDs for each IMDS company
- Leverage investments in IMDS Upload license across all business units

EDS provides IMDS Client Managers with an Excel Workbook to assist with company setup/restructuring planning. The workbook includes 4 tabs:

1. Current IMDS Companies - Listing of IMDS registered using a company name
2. Proposed IMDS Hierarchy - Worksheet for you to specify the proposed organization hierarchy
3. Proposed IMDS User Assignments - Worksheet for you to map current users into proposed organization hierarchy
4. Current IMDS UserIDs - Listing of IMDS registered users grouped by current IMDS registered companies (use to complete tab 3)

### About this Newsletter

The Steering Committee will quarterly provide the Newsletter to all IMDS Users as a source of information about the different IMDS functionalities and support.

This Newsletter is designed to objectively inform about the IMDS.

If you have any questions or comments about this Newsletter, please send an email to:

[imds-newsletter@eds.com](mailto:imds-newsletter@eds.com)

Your completion of this IMDS Company Setup Planner will provide EDS with the information necessary to determine the requirements and size the effort required for

- Organizational hierarchy structuring
- Userid assignment changes
- Data migration

Contact the EDS IMDS team to have a planner initialized for your organization.

### **IMDS Newsletter – next issue**

IMDS Steering Committee met representatives from supplier organizations from Europe and North America on 06. November 2002 – Special Report on the outcome of the discussions

Comparison: Spreadsheet approach vs. Central system approach

IMDS Steering Committee considers down-load possibilities for the suppliers

### **IMDS Help Desk support**

**European help desk** – [imds-eds-helpdesk@eds.com](mailto:imds-eds-helpdesk@eds.com)

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (GMT+1) at +49 (0) 42152 56 666

**Italian help desk** – [imds-fiat@eds.com](mailto:imds-fiat@eds.com)

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (GMT+1) at +39 (0) 80 38 53 116

**Japanese help desk** – [jpimdshd@eds.com](mailto:jpimdshd@eds.com)

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. JST (GMT+9) at +81 3 3797 4212

**North American help desk** - [imds-eds-helpdesk-nao@eds.com](mailto:imds-eds-helpdesk-nao@eds.com)

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (EST) at 248/267-3460

### **Editorial**

The collection of the contents of this IMDS Newsletter is carried out on behalf of the IMDS Steering Committee by Ilona Pollok, EDS.

