

# RAFALE DOCUMENTATION

*Right from the outset, Rafale's electronic consultation system (SED) shows its computer-age dimension.*

*Portability, efficiency, durability are the watchwords.*

Designed from the start using CATIA tools, the Rafale was "thought out" in its entirety as a weapon system platform, and even before its first flight, the maintenance aspects and spares management were already taking form within a very large database with a flexible and open-ended structure.

Indeed, for the first time, the Ministry of Defense has wanted its forces to set up and have full control over the management of the technical and support documentation for a weapons system. This has resulted in the ambitious GALILÉE program (already mentioned in *Interactions* No.15) which will be implemented by the CDTAA (French air force documentation center) based at Romorantin in the Loir-et-Cher department.

## THE GALILÉE PROGRAM



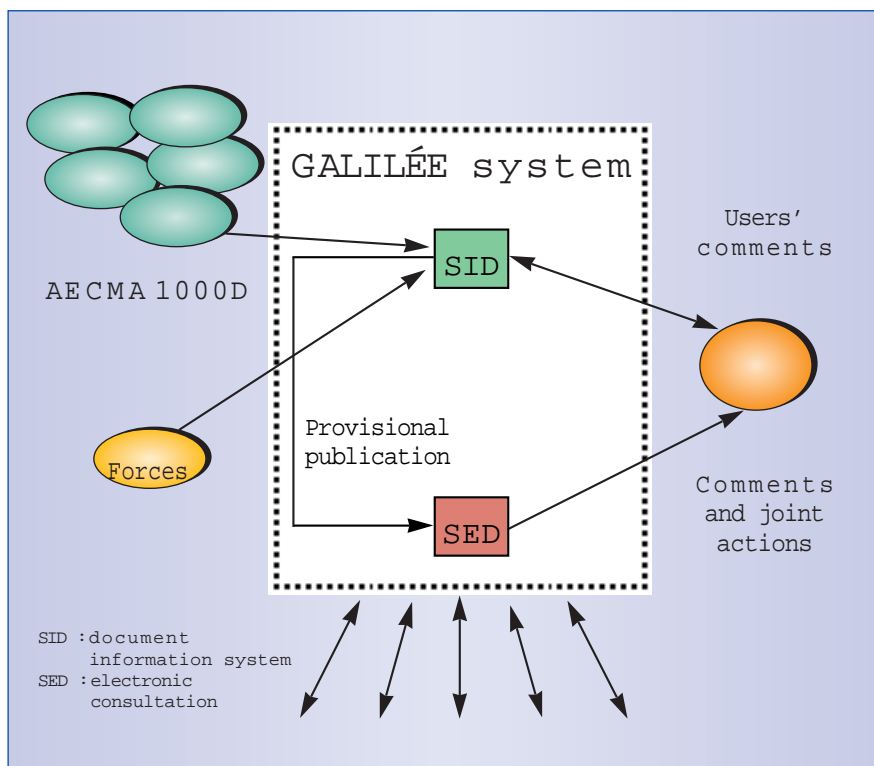
While the Rafale demonstrators are extending their trials up until entry into operational service, Sogitec, under the responsibility of Dassault Aviation, the prime contractor, is working on the finalizing of the electronic consultation system (SED) after having developed the document information system (SID).

## AIRCRAFT DOCUMENTATION IN THE GLOBAL SENSE



The SID (document information system) tool already delivered to the French Air Force, which is situated upstream in the system managed by the CDTAA, collects the documentary modules (data modules) from the aircraft manufacturer and from other industrials involved in the Rafale program.

The database assembles the data modules and organizes – to CDTAA specifications – the appropriate SGML publications for the operation and support of Rafale. The CDTAA then issues the various publications to users on CD-ROM, i.e., to the different maintenance level technicians (Technical Intervention Levels NTI 1 and 2), instructors, logistics specialists and aircrews. The entire documentation of Rafale can indeed be consulted (operating, spares and maintenance documentation).



# SEEN BY THE USERS

The SED (electronic consultation system) tool has been chosen to provide users with advanced consultation functions.

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## “POST-ITS” BENEATH THE SCREEN

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The display software ViewTec™ designed and developed by Sogitec, and already selected by SNECMA and Dassault Aviation, has been chosen as the master tool central to the SED.

It provides the following sophisticated functions:

- browsing by hyperlinks (Hytime standard) allowing switching from text to illustration and vice versa, text to text and text to logistic data,
- saving of the browsing history and storing to diskette,
- search for information in “full text” mode, that is to say by keywords or groups of words, possibly limited to semantic categories: for example, a product or a spare part for the engine,
- retrieval of text or illustrations for printing or storing to diskette,
- recording of annotations, electronic functions, and saving them for later use,

- recording and transmitting comments to an ad hoc entity for collection and validation before possible insertion in the SID.

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## FAST AND EASY UPDATING

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The SID situated upstream enables the documentation to be updated rapidly, with the CDTAA sending users either complete new versions of the publications or simply the data module(s) concerned.

The presentation of the new publication unit is different from its previous version, to draw the SED user's attention when he next consults it.

The SED consultation stations operating under Windows NT can be desktop or laptop PCs.

They can either be stand-alone machines operating with a CD-ROM, or be connected by an Intranet network to a publication server.

On board the aircraft carrier *Charles-de-Gaulle* that will carry the first Rafales, the SED consultation stations shall be connected



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by a network to the ship's documentary server. Users will download the publication needed for their specific requirements, and can then take their laptop computer to the aircraft and run the maintenance procedures step by step.

In the year 2000, with both the SID (which is already operational) and the SED, the French Navy will have the complete tool specified in the GALILÉE project for the consultation and utilization of Rafale's electronic documentation.

In the long run, all French Air Forces air bases operating the Rafale will be equipped for the consultation and utilization of electronic documentation.

## A PRECISE SCHEDULE

The SID project for which Dassault Aviation is prime contractor was notified to Dassault Aviation and Sogitec by the French MOD DGA/SPAé in February 1997.

Factory acceptance testing took place in November 1998, and acceptance on the CDTAA site at Romorantin was in February 1999.

The SED project, for its part, was notified in October 1998 to be operational at the end of 1999.