

## SUCCESS STORY



## iMSA adopts DROPS to manage the deployment of its 60 applications across 235 environments, involving 220 users



### The customer

**The MSA (Mutualité Sociale Agricole)** is the second-largest social protection program in France, managing all branches of social security for employees/non-employees in agricultural professions. It covers more than 5 million beneficiaries, distributing €30 billion in benefits each year, with 17,000 employees and 35 management offices in France. The MSA stands out for its one-stop shop, local elections, and coverage that includes some French overseas departments and territories.

**iMSA (IT of MSA)** is the MSA's technological branch, managing all information systems, including the two data centers that support all branches of social security. This branch employs about 1,000 people at 20 geographical sites and works with various partners and special agencies, such as SNCF, RATP and the Caisse des français de étranger (fund for French nationals living abroad). iMSA has a broad technological spectrum, ranging from legacy systems based on AIX and Cobol to native Cloud solutions. They also manage over 2,000 production start-ups a year, with a constant focus on agility, notably through the adoption of methods such as SAFe (Scaled Agile framework).

### Project background

iMSA's Release Management System was an internally developed solution based on shell scripts and COBOL programs.

Although operational and satisfactory, it was showing its limitations in the face of the adoption of new technologies and the acceleration of time-to-market, leading to an increase in maintenance costs.

To respond effectively to these new challenges, it was therefore decided to launch a radical overhaul of the global software factory, based on a functional, modular architecture.



## Issues

The main objective of this project are the necessary integration into a global agile approach, the acceleration, and security of deliveries, the use of new technologies (Cloud, Kubernetes, etc.) and the centralization of deployment procedures.

It was therefore necessary to rethink the entire production and distribution chain in order to:

- Guarantee the consistency of the functional packages distributed,
- Speed up deliveries without compromising safety,
- Reduce and control maintenance costs related to the complexity brought about by new technologies,
- Meet the requirements of compliance and traceability checks imposed internally or by public authorities.

## Solution provided: DROPS

The search for a solution to address the issues identified within iMSA was a detailed and meticulous process. One of the first criteria was the ability to manage any type of application, including various languages, and types of components through a single delivery tool. The need for adaptability, productivity, and integration of the GitOps approach were also paramount. The focus on open source was also an important factor.

The DROPS solution was chosen after a multi-stage selection process, starting with formalizing the internal requirements, with 200 criteria visited. Next, a theoretical analysis of twenty solutions available on the market, followed by the operational exploration of four solutions through POCs (Proof of Concept).

In addition to its functional coverage, the choice of DROPS was also based on the vendor's ability to respond and adapt to the organization's specific needs, as well as its policy of transferring the solution to the Open-Source world.

The prototyping phase began in the summer of 2023 with the implementation of the product in three different IS technology areas and three different business teams at iMSA, demonstrating the commitment to evolving the existing distribution system using a flexible, modern solution like DROPS.

## Current status of the project

In line with the vendor's commitments, the solution has evolved to adapt finely to the organization set up by iMSA, according to a jointly-defined schedule (UX modifications, addition of new functions, etc.).

Today iMSA uses DROPS to manage the distribution of releases for 60 applications, in 235 environments involving around 220 players in the global chain.

" ARCAD Software's open-source orientation was clearly stated quite early on, which is an important argument for us in our open-source policy. "

*Nicolas Cazottes, Product Manager, Software Infrastructure Division, iMSA*



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