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Complex processes in highly heterogeneous and distributed environments are a major challenge of industrial product development and service provisioning. Those processes typically involve a large number of independent organisational entities at different locations as well as different applications and data sources.

Based on the application and enhancement of grid technology, this challenge is targeted in the EU-funded SIMDAT project [www.simdat.org]. SIMDAT focuses on four application areas: product design in the automotive, aerospace and pharma industry as well as service provisioning in meteorology. Within the first half of the project important parts of this matrix of technologies and application areas have successfully been established.

Technologies for the distributed data access as well as semantic technologies have been combined in order to provide an environment which solves typical problems of heterogeneous data-grids involving complex engineering tools in the automotive area. This show-case demonstrates how the industrial production environments can benefit from synergies by the combination of grid- and semantic technologies.

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