

# Case Study

## Rockwell Launches Imaging System for International Space Station

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Rockwell's Rocketdyne Division is playing a key role in the development of NASA's \$5.53 billion, 400-ton international space station. Scheduled to be launched in 1997, the station consists of modules for Russia, Japan, Europe, Canada and the USA.

Rocketdyne is designing the electrical power system for the station, which will measure 300 feet by 200 feet and be assembled in space over a period of time. This is crucial because they can't simply ship in more power if they need it.

Early on, Ashok Kohli, Rocketdyne's data management manager, realized the value of imaging. "We knew that Rocketdyne would generate mountains of paper and I estimated a saving of \$3 million over a seven-year period," says Kohli, who arrived at the savings while completing his masters thesis at the University of Phoenix. "The savings come from all areas: storage; improved productivity; faster information gathering and paper costs. When everything is networked, the savings will be even greater.

"Up in space, the benefits are enormous. There are limits on how much paper can be stored. This time, there will be no paper at all on the space station, because all the documents will be in an electronic format."

Rocketdyne looked at six different systems and eventually went to system integrator Hershey Technologies. Hershey recommended Kofax's Ascent Capture because everything needed to be CALS compliant. Kofax also has good capabilities, high-resolution and shows the images as they're being scanned.

"A lot of systems do this in the background, which means they can't be checked until the job is completed. If something doesn't scan properly, this can be costly in terms of time," says Kohli.

The initial system cost about \$25,000, including the Kofax board, Ascent Capture and a 39-page-per-minute Fujitsu scanner. The company already had the PCs and printers. Since then, the system has been expanded and another scanner, Kofax board and Meridian 14-drive CD jukebox have been added, bringing the total cost of the system to more than \$70,000.

"We have 10 people in our section using the system and we're getting inundated with phone calls from people in other divisions who want to use our equipment," says Kohli. "Eventually, I expect that most of the company will be using a paperless system. Kofax would be the logical choice because it can be expanded enterprise wide.

"If I had to do it all again, I'd do it exactly the same way. We spent a lot of time evaluating different systems and definitely made the right choice. The Kofax people have been great. Every time I call, they always have the information I need."