

SimTrans™

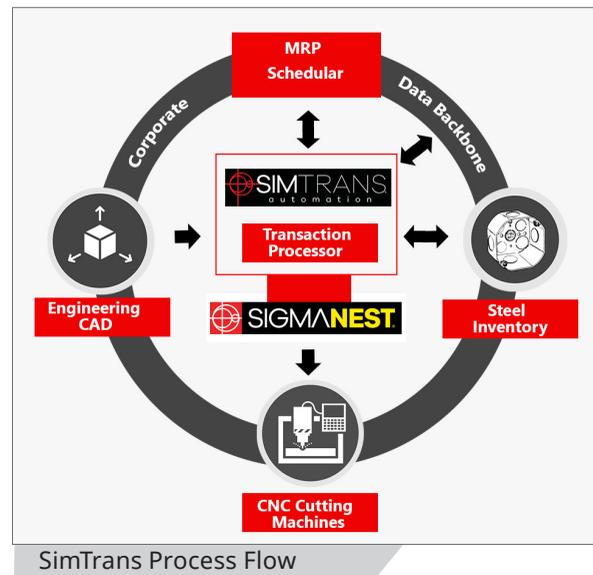
Online Transaction Manager

SimTrans is an online transaction manager that serves as a bridge between SigmaNEST software and Enterprise Resource Planning/Manufacturing Resource Planning (ERP/MRP) systems, order entry, or other management software.

How It Functions

MRP and other management software usually reside on large, centralized servers or mainframe systems while SigmaNEST is normally installed on workstations. SimTrans acts as the transaction manager between two systems regardless of the platform used for installation.

The diagram shows the data flow from the customer through the sales, order processing and engineering systems. SigmaNEST functions at the center of manufacturing operations and maintains its own database of parts, work orders and material inventory. SimTrans permits internal information systems to communicate with SigmaNEST and its database.



Features

- ▶ Provides a communication link between a business system and SigmaNEST
- ▶ Populates part requirements and sheet/plate stock into SigmaNEST in real time
- ▶ Automatically converts 2D or 3D CAD files into ready-to-dest SigmaNEST parts
- ▶ Supplies data to business systems at the different phases of the order process, such as work order completion, material consumption levels, etc.

Advantages

- ▶ Standard database format (SQL) allows interface with any type of business system
- ▶ Compatible with TXT, CSV, and other common input file types
- ▶ More than 40 ready-to-use transaction types
- ▶ Can trigger batch files to run
- ▶ Installation, training and consulting for SimTrans available onsite or remote

Benefits

- ▶ Seamless data flow and order processing
- ▶ Eliminate redundant data transfer processes and potential human errors
- ▶ Order hits floor faster to meet deadlines
- ▶ Automatic data entry
- ▶ Scalable solution - SimTrans can grow with your company's needs

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Feedback From SigmaNEST

Feedback processes fall into categories including:

- ▶ In process information — e.g. updates the current status of parts and other components
- ▶ Completed events — e.g. information on completed programs, work orders, etc. since the last update

Tables

SimTrans uses the common SigmaTEK database with a specific table for all transactions destined for SigmaNEST. Additional tables receive report status information. SigmaNEST populates process feedback information for work orders and inventory, which can be read by other systems utilizing SQL tables.

With the transaction table, new sheets can be added to stock, existing sheets can be modified (if they are not already in process), and existing orders can be modified or canceled. New orders can be created using undefined

parts, existing parts or standard shapes. For undefined parts, the geometry is added later in SigmaNEST from DXF, DWG, IGES, and CDL "files" or "imports". A few examples of transactions include:

- ▶ Convert geometry into SigmaNEST parts
- ▶ Create SigmaNEST part orders
- ▶ Reorder existing SigmaNEST parts
- ▶ Add stock sheets

SimTrans Enterprise™

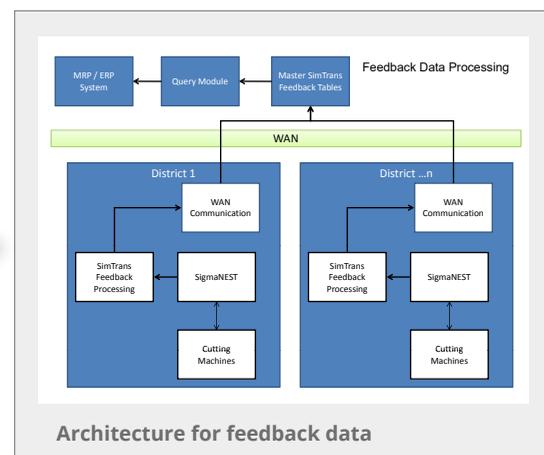
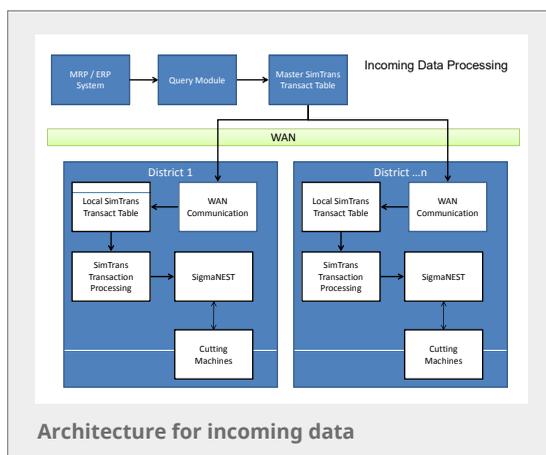
Enterprise is designed to take care of all data interchange between a central, corporate office and its processing districts. The system interfacing is done from a centralized location. All data is distributed to the districts. Processing feedback is pushed to the central location for analysis and reporting to the business system.

Centralized data for:

- ▶ Part work order completion feedback
- ▶ Material consumption feedback
- ▶ Work order processing feedback

Core features include:

- ▶ Centralized transaction gateway architecture
- ▶ Multi-district WAN capable
- ▶ Secure WAN data recovery
- ▶ Company-wide transaction processing
- ▶ Production schedule interface
- ▶ Inter-plant plate inventory synchronization



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