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BOEING

DATABANK IMX SUPPORTS THE BOEING S-307 STRATOLINER RESTORATION

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You could say DataBank IMX made John Travolta happy. Actor Travolta is an enthusiastic fan of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum is where the Boeing S-307 Stratoliner is on display. "How could this be possible?" you ask. Read on.



HISTORY

Boeing began building the S-307 Stratoliner in the early 1940's. It was the first aircraft to have a pressurized cabin, and Boeing believed that this aircraft would be a success in both the United States and European markets. Boeing had completed manufacturing only ten aircraft when World War II began, at which time Boeing began to build the B-17 Flying Fortress. Further building of the S-307 was abandoned.

In 1994, Boeing employees found the only remaining S-307 in a museum and offered to restore the aircraft for The Smithsonian. With restoration plans in place, The Smithsonian planned to exhibit the restored aircraft in 2003 at the Washington Dulles International Airport. Boeing volunteers spent a total of six years restoring the aircraft to its original state.

In March 2002, a test crew flew the aircraft 25 miles and made a successful landing. Upon their return to Boeing Field, the aircraft experienced problems and splashed down into Seattle's Elliott Bay. Once again, Boeing employees volunteered to repair the damages and deliver the aircraft in 2003 as planned.

THE CHALLENGE

In order to repair the damages, the volunteers would need access to many of the original product drawings. The aircraft's original drawings had been destroyed and the only set to be found had been microfilmed to 35mm roll film media. Boeing would need to scan and make paper prints of the drawings for the volunteers. A great deal of care would need to be taken to ensure that the film, being the only copy, was not damaged. Time was of essence. Realizing that they could not complete the project in time by themselves, Boeing's image library called on DataBank IMX (previously known as ImageMax) for help.



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WHY DataBank IMX?

Relying on years of experience, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, and a staff of imaging professionals, DataBank IMX was prepared to tackle such a challenging project. Based on previous work relationships, Boeing knew that DataBank IMX had the experience and expertise required to scan and produce quality raster images of large engineering and manufacturing drawings.

THE SOLUTION

To reduce the labor and turnaround for the project, DataBank IMX proposed a two-step approach: convert the sixty rolls of 35mm film on a Mekel Roll-Film Scanner into digital images, and then process the images, as needed, for image enhancement and creation of the custom database needed to integrate the images into Boeing's imaging system. Using this approach, the film would not be altered and labor would be minimized by not cutting the film and mounting each frame into an aperture card, thus, time was saved, schedules were met, and costs were reduced. The process required that each frame would be captured at 200 DPI as TIFF CCITT Group IV images. Over 46,500 frames of film were scanned. Quality assurance monitors made any necessary adjustments for each roll of film in order to insure the best quality images. Scanned images were then examined for maximum image quality and corrective measures such as cropping, nonaggressive despeckling, and deskewing were taken when necessary.



RESULTS

The final project consisted of 61,500 images written to a set of 16 CDROMs. DataBank IMX provided images of excellent quality particularly when considering the media's original condition. Status updates, special requests, and control information were all provided to Boeing on time and with the quality you'd expect from professionals

Boeing was very pleased with the results of the project, and, in a way, maybe John Travolta is happy that DataBank IMX does the quality work they do.

ABOUT DataBank IMX

DataBank IMX is the premier national provider of high quality digital services and imaging systems and solutions with production and service facilities across the United States and business and technology partners worldwide. As a leader in this industry, DataBank IMX keeps pace with the rapid changes in technology, offering proven solutions and services that are of the highest quality available, while retaining the importance of their primary focus: DataBank IMX clients and their complete satisfaction!

With its nationwide network of 10 production facilities and offices in major cities, DataBank IMX provides services and imaging solutions for organizations who want to improve their document imaging and information management processes.

DataBank IMX specializes in providing end-to-end solutions and delivering on the most demanding assignments. When you select DataBank IMX to design your information and/or imaging solution, you will be 100% satisfied with the manner in which it serves your needs. DataBank IMX ensures their clients' complete satisfaction ... guaranteed! No one else in the industry makes that offer. No one.

Contact DataBank IMX today to see how they can provide your organization with a best of breed business solution that will reduce your operating costs as well as improve and streamline your business processes.