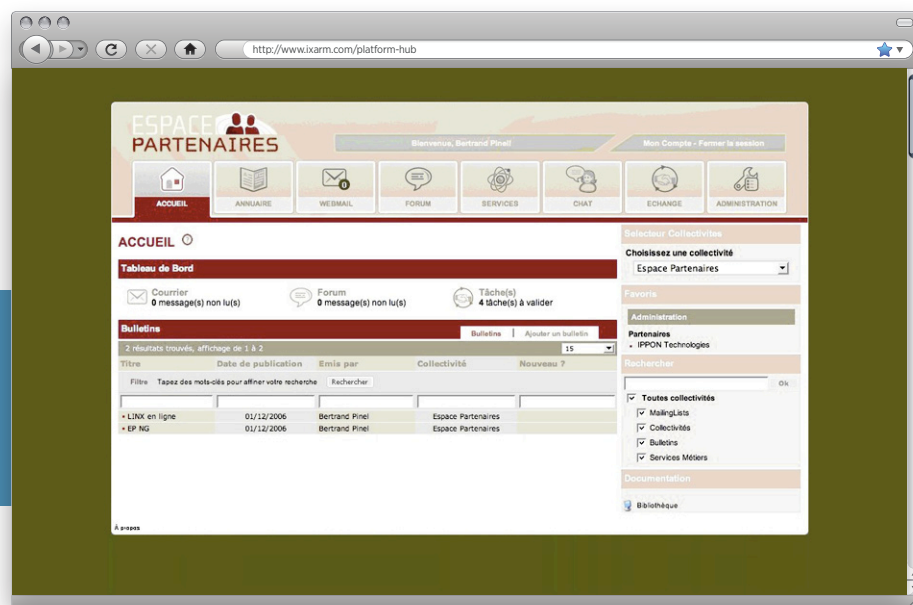


## French Armaments Procurement Agency

[www.ixarm.com/Platform-hub](http://www.ixarm.com/Platform-hub)



**“Liferay is now a serious player in defense space. Many projects are looking at EPNG as a critical reference for an infrastructure portal.”**

**GEOFFRAY GRUEL**  
DIRECTOR,  
IPPON TECHNOLOGIES

Created in 1961 as the ministerial delegation for armament, the DGA, is an organization belonging to the French Ministry of Defense. Its main purpose is to ensure the competitiveness, quality and safety of French Defense equipment.

DGA responsibilities include:

- Equipping the French armed forces
- Leading Defense programs encompassing procurement, testing and evaluation.
  - DGA manages 78 defense programs in the phases of design and manufacturing.
  - In 2005, the DGA placed 10 billion worth of industry orders.
- Preparing the future
  - Imagining possible future scenarios and guaranteeing that required technologies and expertise will be available.
- Promoting defense equipment exports

### CHALLENGE

The research, design, manufacturing, and support of defense programs involve the daily exchange of a wide range of information within the French defense community. In addition to the French Armaments Procurement Agency (DGA), community members include the armed forces, industrial suppliers, integrated support structures, and government financial departments.

To better manage and facilitate this ongoing communication, the DGA set out to create a collaboration platform to offer these players a rational, unique and advanced communications solution for all their exchanges of technical, contractual and financial data. Key requirements included:

- An easy to use collaboration platform (Portal)
- Easy to configure secured communities
- An easy to configure process engine
- A wide range of integrations for connecting external information systems
- A high level of security (strong authentication with smart cards X509 v3 client certificates)
- A private network (European Network eXchange)

## RESOLUTION

After a long evaluation and benchmarking process, Liferay was chosen by Ippon Technologies ([www.ippontech.com](http://www.ippontech.com)) to serve as the de-facto portal infrastructure for the DGA collaboration platform. Designed and developed by Ippon, the collaboration platform, called EPNG, also employed BEA Weblogic Integration for its workflow engine and EAI with IPDiva for its secure reverse proxy.

By leveraging Liferay's capabilities, Ippon Technologies was able to implement:

- Strong authentication / authorization with LDAP and certificates
- Detailed and secure community architecture
- Strong integration with Weblogic Integration

There are also 20 custom portlets running within Liferay, including:

- Private mailing systems
- Per collectivity forums and enterprise chat
- Per collectivity document library
- Usage statistics
- Digital signature and notarizing
- Workflow administration (with access to Weblogic Integration configuration)
- External applications access (connection through IPDiva Mediation Server)

Moreover, unique customization possibilities from Liferay Portal (engine tuning) has allowed EPNG to scale easily and support wide adoption from the extensive defense community.

Today, EPNG is connected to the Ministry of Defense Intranet, allowing 100,000+ users to access its services with all major defense suppliers (ie., Thales, Dassault, EADS, DCN) registered on EPNG as well. Twenty external applications are also now connected to the portal, including online part stocks for aircrafts that allow military forces to access and order parts direct from suppliers.