Mekon eclipse™
IPD Generator

Generate standards compliant markup for Illustrated Parts Data for S1000D and iSpec 2200

Illustrated Parts Data publications are one of the most essential technical publications required for the support of any complex equipment. The conversion of raw parts data into standards compliant markup that can be incorporated into technical documentation has always been one of the most complex parts of the documentation process.

Even with systems that can provide the data as a spreadsheet there has been no easy means of incorporating the data into structured content without rekeying or lengthy cut and paste operations.

The Mekon Eclipse IPD Generator provides a tool for converting to the required markup and comes in two editions for S1000D and for ATA iSpec 2200. Both editions have the same general functionality and mapping system but are designed to generate output for their specific standard. Designed to complement the Mekon authoring tools for S1000D and iSpec 2200, output from these tools can be easily incorporated into existing content and Data Module sets.

The mappings definitions are created for a specific spreadsheet layout and are then saved and can be applied to spreadsheets whenever required. Multiple mapping files can be created for different spreadsheet formats simplifying the processing of data from multiple sources. Data files can be processed individually or several files can be processed in a single run.

Using a Comma Separated Value (CSV) format file that can be output from any spreadsheet software, this tool allows you to generate the parts list markup quickly and error free. The mapping system enables you to configure the tool to the format of your spreadsheets whether they are simple lists of parts data or whether they also contain additional details of graphics, Data Module Codes, ATA numbers or other relevant data.

The option to prompt for missing values means that there can be less need for extensive post conversion work adding extra content required by the standard. All the user may need to do is open the document in an authoring application and verify the data.
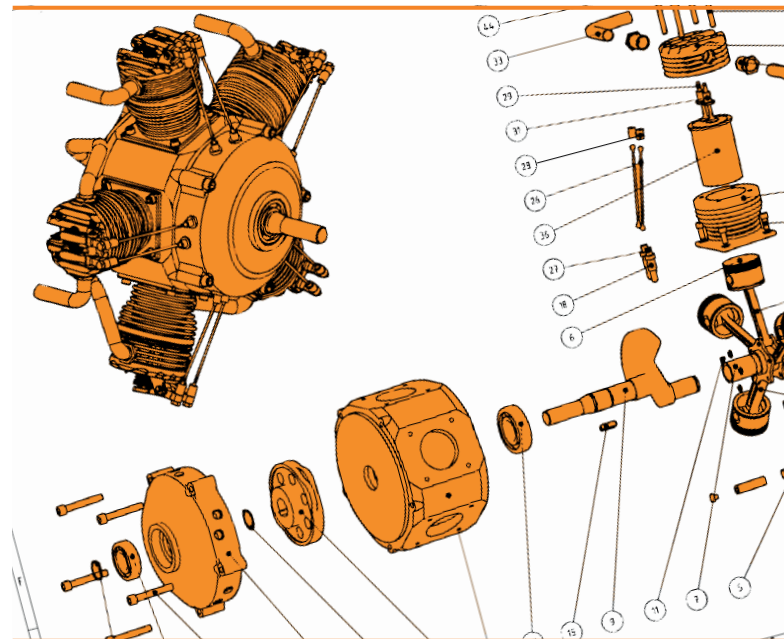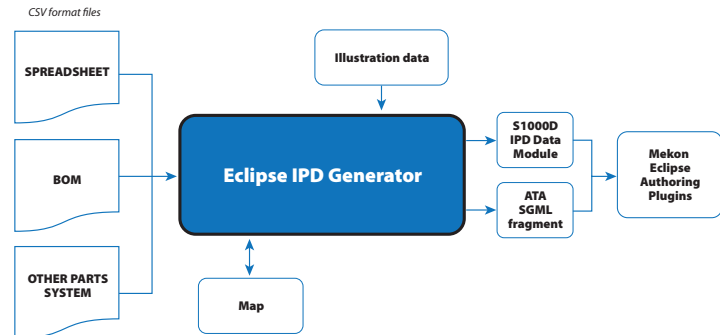

S1000D edition

- The S1000D edition produces a complete IPD Data Module
- Produce output compliant with any Issue 4.x version of the standard

ATA iSpec 2200 edition

- The ATA iSpec 2200 edition produces an SGML fragment file that can be included in a CMM as a file entity
- Alternatively the contents can be copied and pasted directly into an existing CMM
- Support for all versions of the ispec 2200 CMM DTD

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Features

- A visual mapping system allows content to be mapped to the relevant markup
- Parsing of converted data to trap errors
- Prompts for required values that may not be in the spreadsheet, eg figure number
- Add static values to the map for data not contained in the spreadsheet
- Data can be read from any CSV format file
- Process single or multiple IPD files
- Support for all S1000D issue 4.x versions of the standard
- Support for all versions of the ispec 2200 CMM DTD

CSV format files — SPREADSHEET, BOM, OTHER PARTS SYSTEM → Eclipse IPD Generator ← Illustration data, Map → S1000D IPD Data Module / ATA SGML fragment → Mekon Eclipse Authoring Plugins

1 This shows a typical map generation screen common to both S1000D and iSpec 2200 editions of the tool. Although the document structure on the left may be different the process of creating the map is the same.

2 The map builder shows the IPD/IPC structure with required elements and attributes highlighted and showing data sources from the spreadsheet. The complete structure divided into four similar screens to simplify the map definition process.

3 This pane shows the user's sample spreadsheet (CSV format) used to define data sources for the map. The location for each data element is added to the map simply by selecting the relevant cell or column.

4 A typical S1000D Illustrated Parts Data Module generated with the IPD conversion tool and formatted with Mekon Eclipse authoring application.

5 A typical ATA iSpec 2200 Illustrated Parts Catalog generated with the IPD conversion tool and formatted with Mekon Eclipse authoring application.

For more information on these tools or the complementary authoring tools for FrameMaker and Arbortext or to discuss content management options contact Mekon.