

Case Study

# TEXA Protects Software and IP with Thales Sentinel Licensing

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**TEXA S.p.A., based in Italy, produces diagnostic tools for machinery, including air conditioning recharge stations, emission gas analyzers, and vehicles for roads, agriculture, and sea. Founded in 1992, TEXA offices span the US, Brazil and Europe - including Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland. The quality and value of their software are demonstrated by the prestigious partnerships they established over the years with some of the most important global companies in the automotive industry.**

**After using a homegrown system, TEXA pivoted to searching for a robust licensing solution for its IDC product that would ensure copy and IP protection and was easy for end users to install. These needs led them to the Thales Sentinel platform.**

## Software Protection

Renowned in the automotive, agricultural, and marine industries, TEXA was particularly concerned about IP theft. "Protecting the intellectual property of our software is essential," emphasized Michele Tonon, TEXA Software Development Team Leader.

Along with protecting against reverse engineering, TEXA also needed copy protection. Since the data sheets (with diagnostic solutions) are available to anyone online, it was even more important to TEXA that software access was controlled by the license.

**"Sentinel protection has allowed us to maintain our competitive edge."**

**– Mirco Dariol, TEXA Senior Software Developer**

could manually plug in the license and begin using the diagnostic device without the need to access the internet.

After thoroughly researching other companies, TEXA chose Sentinel because of the "excellent reputation, recognized by our major partners and database suppliers as having the most robust protection in the industry," explained Samuele Zoia, TEXA Software Developer Analyst.

TEXA's software IP is protected by the Sentinel Envelope, which along with the Data HASP tool, wraps the application, encrypting and controlling access to the software data files so that only TEXA's authorized users and the hosting software can decrypt and upload them. "In this way, algorithms and trade secrets are secured against hackers," said Zoia.

Implementing Sentinel took only a few months. "We were very satisfied with Sentinel's technical support team. They were always there to help us and were extremely informative," said Tonon.

## Ease of Implementation

TEXA ordered Sentinel for software whose end users are usually repair workers using the TEXA device to assess machinery issues. Since TEXA devices are standalone units with embedded software, the company chose offline licenses delivered via hardware keys (Sentinel HL), otherwise known as dongle licenses. "We did not want to disrupt our customer's end users. The software needed to be as safe and protected as possible but had to remain easy to implement for all workers," stated Dariol. By using Sentinel HL, TEXA software users



**TEXA**



## Summary

With Sentinel, TEXA can provide their worldwide customer base with reliable, efficient, up-to-date and protected diagnostic tool device software. TEXA also appreciates the flexibility of the Sentinel solution. “The advantage for the end customer lies in the guarantee of secure and tested licensing, and the simplicity for workers to install it,” explained Zoia.

All told, Texa is very satisfied with Sentinel’s software protection. “Sentinel protection allows us to maintain our competitive edge,” pointed out Dariol. For future, TEXA is currently evaluating Sentinel’s software-based solution for several customers that have expressed the need for more advanced capabilities.

## About Thales

Today’s businesses and governments depend on the cloud, data and software to deliver trusted digital services. That is why the most recognized brands and organizations around the world rely on Thales to help them protect sensitive information and software wherever it is created, stored or accessed – from the cloud and data centers to devices and across networks. As the global leader in data security and software licensing, our solutions enable organizations to move to the cloud securely, achieve compliance with confidence, create more value from their software and deliver seamless digital experiences for millions of consumers every day.

