



# FMEDAX



**Design next Generation Safety into Next  
Generation Automation Products**

The goal of all safety critical devices is that they perform their intended function correctly (reliability) and that the system fails in a predictable and safe manner (safety). Failure Modes, Effects, and Diagnostics Analysis (**FMEDA**) is the most commonly used quantitative analysis technique for predicting safety and reliability of a product. It calculates the reliability performance metrics that are needed for compliance with the **IEC 61508** family of performance-based standards (IEC 61511, IEC 62061, ISO 13849, ISO 26262, etc.) and which are required by product users to perform safety calculations (like **PFDavg**).

### Example Reliability Performance Metrics:

- Safe Detected (SD) Failure Rate
- Safe Undetected (SU) Failure Rate
- Dangerous Detected (DD) Failure Rate
- Dangerous Undetected (DU) Failure Rate
- Proof test effectiveness / coverage
- Annunciation Failure Rate
- Useful life



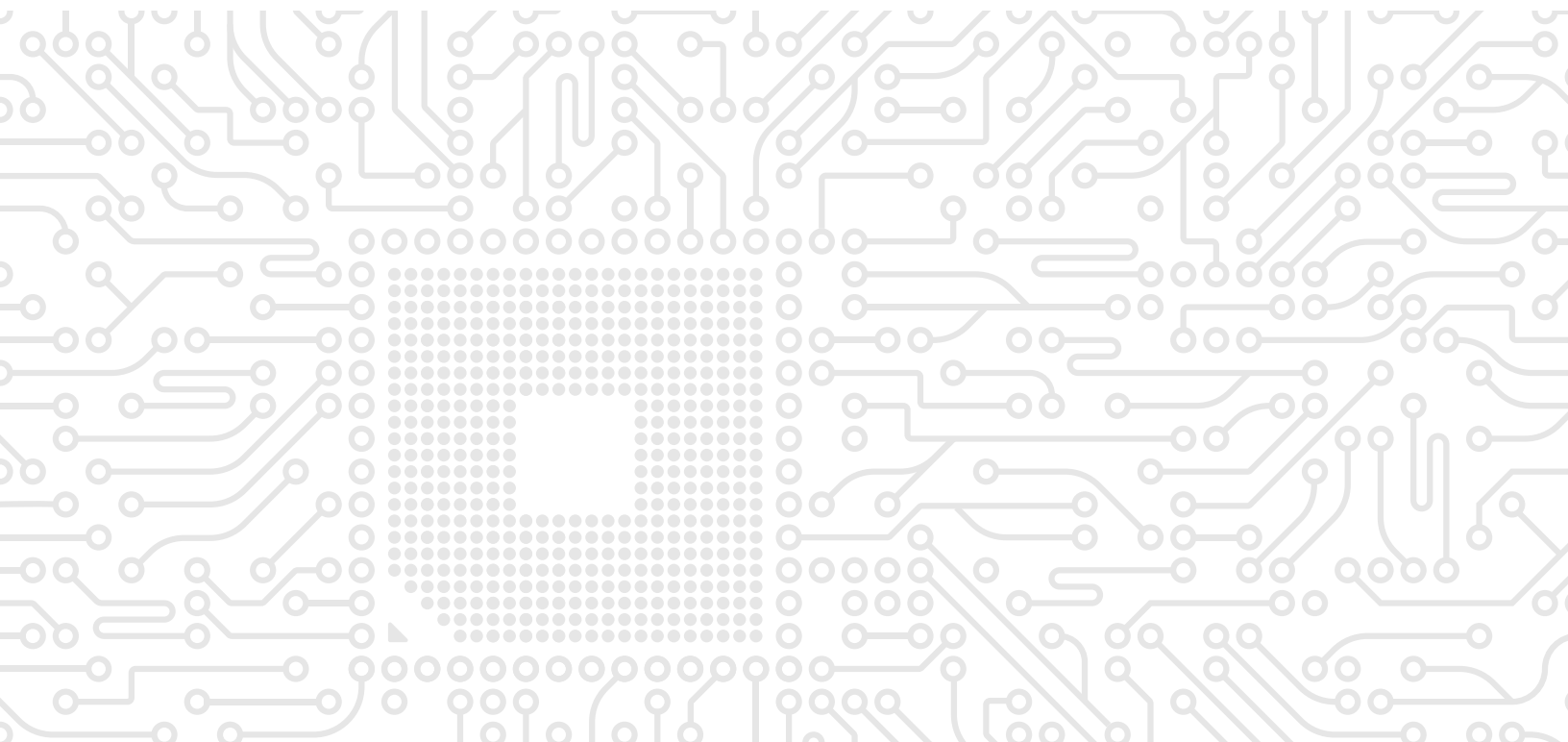


## From First Generation to Next Generation

The FMEDA technique, which was developed in the late 1980's by engineers now working for exida, is a staple of functional safety engineering because of its effectiveness predicting product safety and reliability metrics. It was created from a need to be able to account for the impact of diagnostics on safety and reliability performance.

The FMEDAx tool from exida embeds 30+ years of real-world experience and expertise from the team that pioneered the technique, to provide the world's most accurate tool for safety & reliability predictions. It can support detailed hardware design of automation systems in a variety of applications (process industry, industrial equipment / machinery, robotics, medical devices, railway, mining, automotive, etc.).

FMEDAx can take you from schematic to identification of design weaknesses and accurate / defensible failure rate predictions quicker than conventional FMEDA tools; this reduces cost and enables new products to be brought to market faster.



# Why Accurate Failure Rate Predictions Are Important

Being able to accurately predict product and system failure rates impacts development cost, design complexity, time to market, and the Cost of Poor Quality (COPQ). Having accurate FMEDA results is critical to be able to make effective decisions during the product design & development lifecycle in areas such as:

- » Assessing whether product marketing reliability targets can be achieved
- » Understanding the susceptibility of a design to random failures
- » Evaluating design alternatives (trading off cost, reliability, weight, size, etc.)
- » Establishing objectives for reliability tests (e.g., fault injection testing)
- » Planning logistic and life-cycle support strategies
- » Providing data for system reliability and availability analysis by customers
- » Detecting and controlling failures to ensure predictable failure modes that are safe

## The FMEDA Process

The FMEDA process consists of the following steps.

1. All components from a subsystem (on a schematic) are identified with stress levels for the given application (based on design parameters and operating environment).
2. Component failure rates and failure mode distributions are provided from a database / handbook, and diagnostic / proof test methods are chosen if applicable.
3. The failure rates, failure modes, diagnostic coverage, useful life, and proof test coverage for the entire subsystem is calculated (predicted).
4. Subsystem failure rates are combined at the product level and then compared to target requirements.
5. If requirements are not met, the activity is repeated (iterative).



## Failure Modes Flow Down from FMEA to FMEDA

A mature design process goes from FMEA (Failure Modes and Effects Analysis) to FMEDA and back. FMEDA analysis uses failure mode and mitigation information from an FMEA about the existence and effectiveness of diagnostics. The FMEDAx tool allows FMEA information to flow down automatically from ARCHx, an integrated FMEA tool, to minimize engineering time. The tool also allows entire subsystems or smaller to be cloned to speed up completion of the product level FMEDA.

## Unified Approach to Failure Rate Predictions for Different Markets

Quantitative failure rate predictions are required by the IEC 61508 and ISO 26262 performance-based standards. Different failure rate metrics are prescribed by each standard. FMEDAx takes a unified approach to failure predictions by calculating and presenting both IEC 61508 and ISO26262 metrics, using a single FMEDA. To assist in design evaluation and decision-making, FMEDAx calculates additional metrics beyond the minimum required set (e.g., AD, AU, NSR, H, L, EL). Failure rate predictions can be viewed for the entire assembly or by individual subsystem and can be compared to values that have been allocated as part of high-level design (failure rate budget).

The screenshot displays the 'Subsystem Viewer' application window. At the top, it shows 'Subsystems Global' and 'Environmental Profile Referenced' with a 'Project Default: exida Profile 1' and a 'Refresh All' button. Below this, there's a 'Proof Test' button and a table of failure modes and their rates. The table has columns for Behavior Abbreviation, IEC 61508, ISO 26262, and Failure Rate. The failure modes listed are SD, SU, DD, DU, H, L, AD, AU, #, -, EL, OA, UA, and Total. The failure rates are 1, 0.7, 27.8, 4.3, 0, 0, 5.2, 5.2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 44.2 respectively. To the right of the table, there are buttons for 'View Calculations by Subsystem', 'Proof Test Coverage Predictions', and 'Detection of Data Entry Faults'. Below the table, there's a 'Component Selection' section with 'Included' and 'Excluded' tabs. The 'Included' tab shows a list of components with checkboxes. Below this, there's a 'Creates FMEDA Summary and Details Report' button. To the right of the component selection, there's a 'Save Tables' button. Below the component selection, there are two tables: 'IEC Table' and 'ISO 26262 Table'. The 'IEC Table' has columns for FMEDA Subsystem, ASD, ASU, ADD, ADU, AH, AL, ADL, ASR, ANSR, AEL, ADU After PT, PT Coverage, and SFF. The 'ISO 26262 Table' has columns for FMEDA Subsystem, AS, APVSG, ASPF, ARF, AMPF,L, AMPF,D, ATotal, AH, AL, ASR, ANSR, AEL, LFM, and SPFM. Both tables show data for 'Common' and 'Watchdog' subsystems. To the right of the tables, there are buttons for 'IEC 61508 Failure Rate Predictions' and 'ISO 26262 Failure Rate Predictions'.

Behavior Abbreviation	IEC 61508	ISO 26262	Failure Rate
SD	Safe Detected	Part of the total $\lambda S$ (does not violate a Safety Goal)	1
SU	Safe Undetected	Part of the total $\lambda S$ (does not violate a Safety Goal)	0.7
DD	Dangerous Detected	Part of Detected Multipoint Faults, $\lambda MPF,d$	27.8
DU	Dangerous Undetected	Part of SPF, $\lambda SPF$ or Residual Faults, $\lambda RF$	4.3
H	High	N/A – not part of metrics	0
L	Low	N/A – not part of metrics	0
AD	Annunciation Detected	Part of Detected Multipoint Faults, $\lambda MPF,d$	5.2
AU	Annunciation Undetected	Latent Multipoint Faults, $\lambda MPF,L$	5.2
#	Don't Care	Part of the total $\lambda S$ (does not violate a Safety Goal)	0
-	Not Safety Relevant	Non-Safety Related Faults, $\lambda NSR$	0
EL	External Leak for mechanical	N/A – not part of metrics	0
OA	Overallocated – warning to user	Overallocated – warning to user	0
UA	Underallocated assume worst case	Underallocated assume worst case	0
Total			44.2

FMEDA Subsystem	$\lambda SD$	$\lambda SU$	$\lambda DD$	$\lambda DU$	$\lambda H$	$\lambda L$	$\lambda AD$	$\lambda AU$	$\lambda \#$	$\lambda NSR$	$\lambda EL$	$\lambda DU$ After PT	PT Coverage	SFF
Common	1	0.7	27.7	4.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.3	0	87.2
Watchdog	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.3	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	100

FMEDA Subsystem	$\lambda S$	$\lambda PVSG$	$\lambda SPF$	$\lambda RF$	$\lambda MPF,L$	$\lambda MPF,D$	$\lambda Total$	$\lambda H$	$\lambda L$	$\lambda SR$	$\lambda NSR$	$\lambda EL$	LFM	SPFM
Common	1.7	4.3	3.4	0.9	0	27.7	33.7	0	0	33.7	0	0	100	87.2
Watchdog	0	0	0	0	5.2	5.2	10.5	0	0	10.5	0	0	50	100

FMEDAx Failure Rate Predictions (Unified View presenting IEC 61508 and ISO 26262 Results)

## (Reliability) Data is King

Experienced engineers know that that FMEDA results are only as good as the failure data that is used to create them. If the database does not contain all necessary failure rate information (based on operating environment, failure modes / distributions, or useful life), then assumptions will need to be made. Unfortunately, bad assumptions typically lead to bad results. Without useful life information a designer could select a component with a 5-year useful life for a product with a 20-year mission time. This could lead to premature failures and product “quality” issues. Missed failure modes can lead to product recalls or safety issues (including loss of life). Incorrectly predicting which components are most likely to fail (design weakness) could lead to unnecessary design changes, increased complexity, and cost overruns.



Much of the benefit of using FMEDAx comes from its integration with the exida Component Reliability Database (CRD)<sup>™</sup>. The exida CRD is the most comprehensive and complete reliability database for performing FMEDAs, fulfilling the following criteria:

1. Contains data for all components used in the product design
2. Documents component failure modes and distributions (not just 50%/50% assumptions)
3. Documents component useful life
4. Provides failure rates for various design profiles and operating environments
5. Is updated on a regular basis to keep up with changes in technology (impact of Moore's Law)
6. Supports IEC 61508 Route 2H architectural constraints
7. Includes the impact of analog drift in components
8. Includes the impact of integrated circuit soft error rates (SER)
9. Is calibrated against field failure data for accuracy

Data from the exida CRD is loaded automatically into FMEDAx minimizing the chance of human error and reducing the time it takes to perform the calculations.

The screenshot displays the 'Advanced OEMx' software interface for a project titled 'Untitled Project'. The left sidebar shows a hierarchical tree of components: U0: New Unit, U1: CO, U2: CU, U3: SV Power Supply, U4: Voltage Monitor, and U5: A/D converter. The main window is divided into several sections:

- Function:** Quantity: 1, ID: CO
- Notes:** Switching Regulator providing 5V power
- CRD Component:** ID: 2505 Name: Regulator, Switching
- CRD Component is 2H:** [checkbox]
- Component Filter Title:** reg
- Tag Category:** Electrical
- Selected Component:** Regulator, Switching
- Remarks:** Switching Power Regulator: The failure rates from this CRD apply to one switching regulator IC as tailored to the particular application by selection of:
  - Low Power: integrated switching regulator using external pass device so that it supplies negligible current
  - Moderate power: integrated switching regulator with internal switch used at less than 50% of rated power
- Project Environmental Profile:** exida Profile 1
- Component Failure Rate:** 19.39 FITS
- Failure Mode Filter:** SV
- Failure Modes:** A table listing failure modes and their contributions:

Name	Functional Failure Mode	Failure Rate Contribution
No output	D2:5V Power Supply - 0V	13.57
Output high (up to 20%)	D4:Noisy 5V Power Supply	1.94
Output low (up to 20%)	D3:5V Power Supply - Low	1.94
Output switch stuck on	D4:Noisy 5V Power Supply	1.94
- Options:** Instance Power Dissipation: Low Power less than 250mW, Instance Exposure to EOS: No
- Useful Life:** Worst Case: 50, Name: Switching Regulator, Value: 50, Units: Years

Annotations on the right side of the interface include: 'Device Functional Failure Modes (Flow down from FMEA)', 'Failure Rate Contribution per Mode', and 'Design Profile / Component Use Category'.

Typical View of Component Reliability Data from the exida CRD

## Comprehensive Reliability Database that Stays Up-to-Date with New Technology

We know that if the database does not contain all the components used in your design, then engineers will need to search the internet for the missing information, ending up with data of questionable pedigree and burning design hours. The need for this is alleviated with a comprehensive reliability database such as the exida CRD, which gets updated on a regular basis (typically every 6 months) to address new products and technology.

Incorporating regular updates is particularly important for semiconductors. As stated in ISO26262:2019 “As semiconductor technology is rapidly evolving, It is difficult for published recognized industry sources for failure rates to keep pace with the state of the art, particularly for deep submicron process technologies.”



## Accounting for Operating Environment

A common issue with Reliability handbooks is that they don't provide failure rates for different operating environments, which leads to inaccurate results. The exida CRD provides pre-defined environmental profiles (temperature, humidity, vibration, mechanical shock, etc); six for process industry applications and two for automotive. Custom profiles can also be defined so that the provided component failure rates are determined for the specific design environment. Different environments can be applied to each subsystem. For an automotive application there might be a different profile for roof mounted sensors, bumper level sensors, backend processors in the trunk, engine compartment, and passenger compartment.

## Calibration vs. Field Failure Data Ensures Accurate FMEDA Predictions

Field failure rate data is used to “calibrate” the CRD and FMEDA results using a combination of root cause analysis and closed loop comparison of FMEDA predictions to estimated failure rates from quality field failure data. The comparisons between FMEDA predictions and field failure estimations should show the same results. When a discrepancy exists, exida determines the root cause of the discrepancy and takes corrective action. This ensures that the failure rate predictions provided by FMEDAx are as accurate as possible.



*exida has analyzed over 400 billion operating hours of field failure data to calibrate its component reliability data and FMEDAx tool in order to deliver the most accurate and realistic predictions for use in the development of IEC 61508 / ISO 26262 – compliant products.*





## **Part of an Integrated Product Development Process with ARCHx™**

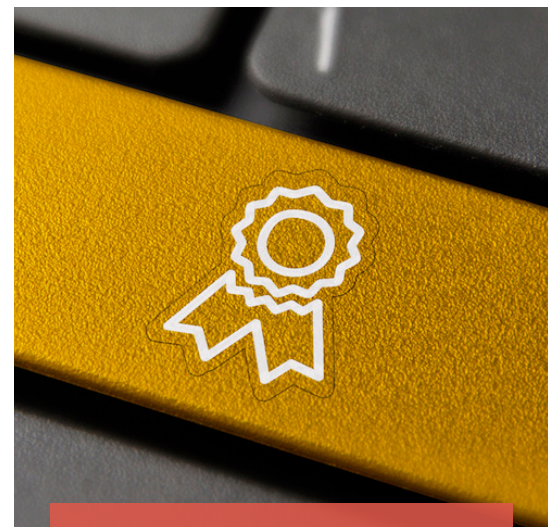
To deliver new products to market in the shortest period of time, the Hardware Detailed Design stage (where FMEDAs are used) should be tightly integrated into the rest of the product development process. A thorough FMEDA can identify design changes / clarifications, additional failure modes, new mitigation measures, or other derived safety requirements. When used with ARCHx™, the information surfaced by FMEDAx can be propagated seamlessly to other design stages - updating FMEA results, Integration / Validation testing goals, system and subsystem requirements, project action item lists, etc.

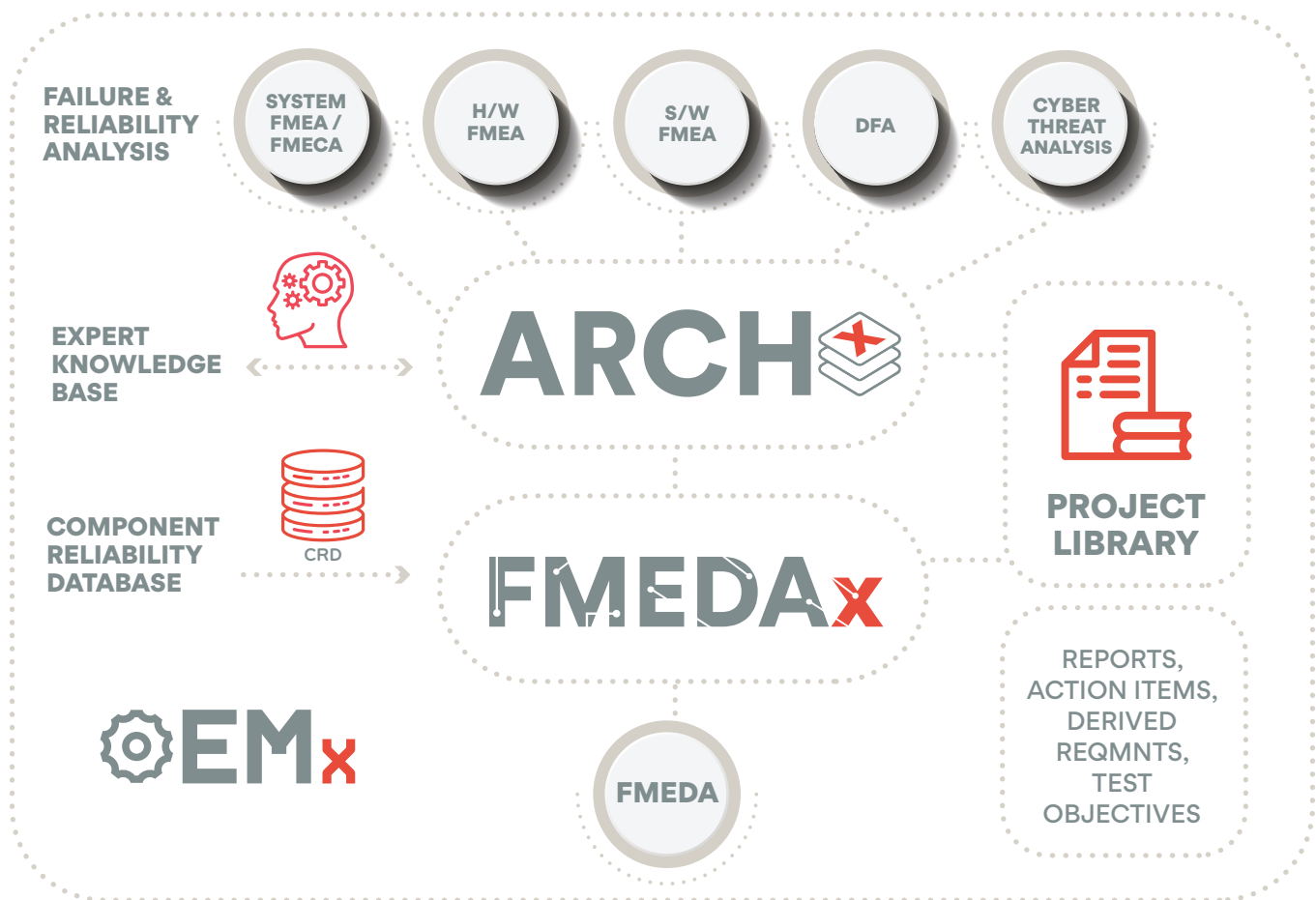
## **Verifying Predicted Design Performance matches Real-life Results**

Typically, fault injection testing is performed on a prototype or pre-production assembly, after the FMEDA is completed, to verify the design and to discover unforeseen problems. It involves simulating specific component failures as highlighted by the FMEDA. The detailed results provided by FMEDAx arm you with the information needed to confirm your design and its expected behavior; verifying that the predicted “effects” occurred, that the diagnostic coverage was effective at detecting failures, and that the mitigation measures worked as designed.

## **Support for Functional Safety Certification**

Customers and regulatory bodies are demanding the use of products that have been certified to functional safety standards such as IEC 61508 and ISO 26262. The failure rate predictions generated by FMEDAx provide clear requirements traceability and documentation to support the functional safety certification process.





## The OEMx Product Line

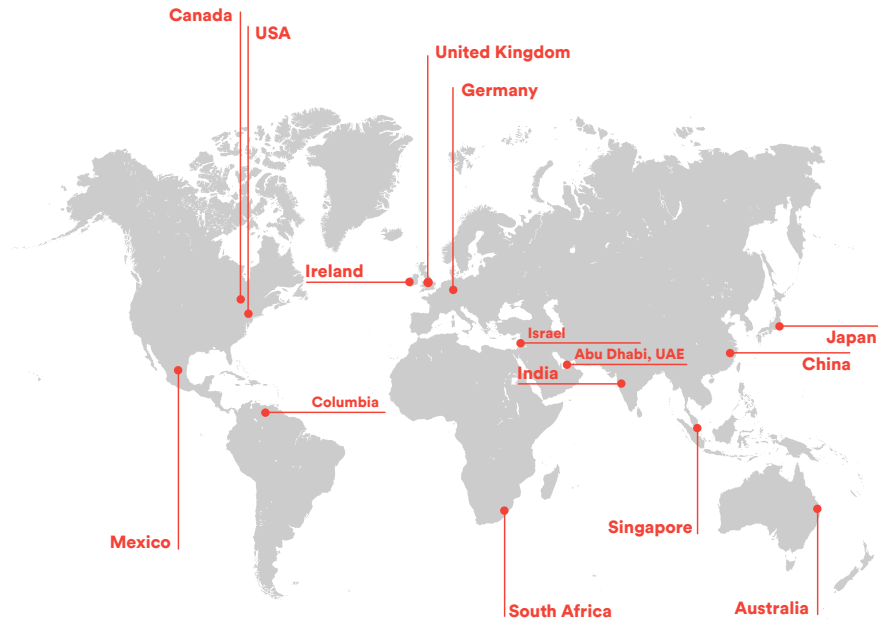
**OEMx** provides a common set of tools to support hardware, software, and cybersecurity reliability and safety analysis for automation systems and critical safety devices.

**FMEDAx™**, part of the OEMx™ product line from exida, can be used to analyze the impact of component failure modes and perform quantitative analysis of products and subsystems to predict safety and reliability performance metrics as required by the IEC 61508 family of standards.

**ARCHx™**, part of the OEMx™ product line from exida, can be used to perform system / subsystem / product architecture analysis to document the design, evaluate the impact of potential design faults in hardware and/or software (FMEA), identify potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and document methods to avoid design faults.

[www.exida.com/oemx](http://www.exida.com/oemx)





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