The Distributed Systems Engineering (DSE) Project, in the frame of the IST Programme of the European Community, is aimed at building up a multi-layer architecture supporting Distributed Systems Engineering activities, enabling collaborative design, verification and review in large programmes. Different teams can interact with each other from their own location, simultaneously accessing and operating remote applications, global data repositories or archives. They can as well collectively create, manipulate and review documents and project data with the support of a concurrent multipoint videoconference system.

DSE integrates existing off-the-shelf Engineering Support Tools, Computer-Supported Collaborative Work Solutions, Distributed Verification Database Applications, and Simulation Capabilities. The system makes use of common services, supporting distribution and application sharing, based on international standards for tools interoperability and distributed simulation. Effective audio and video communications between session participants are supported by an integrated real-time conferencing tool.

DSE is based on the integrated use of CORBA Object Request Brokers (ORB) for distributed Engineering Data operations, HLA compliance Run-Time Infrastructure (RTI) Implementation for distributed simulation and XML for data structure definition.

The Network Infrastructure enables running of DSE Session on heterogeneous platforms (e.g. UNIX and Windows NT) and using IP level services for communications over the network. The supported network technology includes Internet (IPv4 & IPv6), ISDN as well as ATM.