Key capabilities and criteria to select a PLM Software

Deciding on an Enterprise Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software can seem like a daunting task. We can total understand how companies and their leadership feel. The decision process in making a PLM software technology selection is one not easily surmised, that is not easily taken, not easily reversed and can either make or break the success of your organization's product development efficiency and performance. When selecting a PLM technology, we break it down into the following elements:

1. Design and Engineering Capabilities
2. Enterprise Capabilities
3. Software Vendor Fit and Strategy
4. User Interface and Integration Capabilities

By establishing a PLM Strategy that encompasses these core capabilities, you will establish a foundation for continued expansion and impact of the PLM solution as a needed an aligned Enterprise System.

1. Design and Engineering Capabilities

These capabilities and how they address your requirements are the basic capabilities needed for a PLM technology to manage the development, configuration and documentation throughout the product development process—innovation/ideation, design, validation and verification. Key items that would be included would be items such as: CAD/ECAD integrations and 2D/3D model and drawing management, User Access control / Managing Product data security, Engineering Bill of Material and Change Process capabilities, etc.

2. Enterprise Capabilities

This is where we look at PLM technology from an Enterprise capability perspective. The technologies capabilities needed to integrate the cross-functional disciplines into the product development process. Disciplines such as, Manufacturing, Quality and Service. Key items that would be included would be items such as: Enterprise Bill of Material and product configuration, with views of the Engineering Bill of Material, Manufacturing Bill of Material by plant and the Service Bill of Material, service management, etc.

3. Software Vendor Fit and Strategy

When making such a strategic decision, it is key to understand and evaluate who you will be working with and relying on for years to come. The fit between your organization and goals and the software vendor's organization and goals is essential for long term success. Here key items to evaluate are vendor partner engagement, long-term software solution roadmap, vendor`s past performance on being able to deliver, as well as, being in the forefront of up and coming technologies, etc.

4. User Interface and Integration Capabilities

A PLM technology will only provide the expected results if the software can provide an intuitive and easy to use interface, as well as, integrating the needed information sources to get the information needed by the user base in a single view. Integration such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) and Portfolio and Project Management (PPM) solutions. With this would come the needed capability of providing real time dashboards and reporting.

Selecting a PLM technology is a decision that occurs typically once in a career for most enterprise leaders and organizations.

We have a great deal of expertise and experience in providing guidance and assistance with this for organizations

If you'd like to go into a deeper conversation on this subject, don't hesitate to contact us by either:
Phone: 269-281-7567 or by email at info@driven-4.com

Next Month: The need to integrate Analysis & Validation as early as possible