The framework for an Enterprise PLM Strategy

In order to develop a successful Enterprise Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Strategy, we believe there are four key pillars that need to be the core foundation of your strategic framework. These four pillars are:

1. Develop a Single Source of Product Information
2. Developing a Configured Product Lifecycle in the creation and editing of your product
3. Enterprise Collaboration—Integration of cross-functional involvement throughout the process
4. Role-Based User Interface—Provide ease of use by providing all information within a single pane

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. Develop a Single Source of Product Information

What is meant by "Product Information"? The definition of "Product Information" encompasses all information that is used to define the "What" and "How" for designing, sourcing, manufacturing and servicing the product. In essence, Product information essentially is the "lifeline" that powers your organization. This pillar establishes the needed repositories for all cross-functional disciplines to store and mange their information. An additional aspect that needs to be thought through as you develop this part of the strategy is the integration of key information from PLM, ERP and other Enterprise Systems. This will ensure that "Double Entry and Additional Copies" of information does not occur.

2. Developing a Configured Product Lifecycle for the creation and editing of your product

This pillar gives the organization, its suppliers and partners the "context" to understand in what "state" the product information is at. This allows people to consume the information with the intent it is produced for. For example, pre-production information—for the gathering of quotes and prototypes, production information for manufacturing, etc. The lifecycle of the product can go into many different paths and depths depending on your company and how it conducts its business. This capability needs to incorporate these processes and enable the execution of them. It's important to rationalize the lifecycles to ensure the right level of oversight without overly complicating matters.

3. Enterprise Collaboration—Integration of cross-functional involvement throughout the process

Collaboration throughout the development of new product and during the work of manufacturing/servicing your product within your organization and throughout your extended supply chain is key in being able to deliver optimum results for your organization. The earlier manufacturing and service are included in the process, the fewer issues you will have in those areas. The enablement of this collaboration needs to be conducted and captured through the development and editing of the product information. This is a core capability that is enabled within PLM and needs to be part of your core strategy. Educate and grow the cross-functional population for successful business results in the utilization of this capability.

4. Role-Based User Interface—Provide ease of use by providing all information within a single pane

A PLM Strategy is only as good as how well it is embedded. The solution needs to be part of the daily lives of the employees. To ensure this happens, you need to establish a "Role" based approach to the user interface development and then make sure you provide all of the information they need in a "Single" pane to do their work. This helps with employee efficiency and provides the ability to minimize errors.

Building a successful PLM Strategy is one of our core competencies at DRIVEN-4.

We have a great deal of expertise and experience in successfully establishing this in 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: Key capabilities and criteria to select a PLM Software

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