



How to increase the value of your PLM implementation

When company's start thinking about embarking on a Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) journey, their initial conversations are centered around delivering business value. A value that can be described in terms such as "delivering a new product to market faster with better quality". However, when we spend time in organizations and we talk about this subject with our peers, we find that what was outlined as the journey began is very often never realized. So how do you get the "real" value for your PLM investment?

The PLM Journey Needs to be an Enterprise Initiative

PLM needs to be embraced as an enterprise system, bringing the same value proposition as your Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems that are utilized in your business. PLM focuses on providing the capabilities to enable all of your innovation and product development processes. It provides functionality to facilitate all functional departments, such as Engineering, Manufacturing, Quality, Compliance, Service, etc. and providing a business environment that enables the needed collaboration, document management, process execution and configuration of information needed to eliminate re-work and provide the needed factual data to make the "correct" business decisions.

PLM Needs to Encompass All Product Information

PLM typically starts its journey with engineering design information, such as Mechanical Computer Aided Design (MCAD) information. To realize the value proposition for PLM, organizations need to incorporate the multi-facets of product information, regardless of the authoring department. If its product information, PLM needs to master the content and configuration. From Product Requirements to Specifications to product validation. From there, ensuring manufacturing and quality-related product information all the way to Service. PLM needs to be your "one-stop" for all product information and delivering it in a configured manner to your business.

PLM and ERP Need to provide a Unified Business Environment

Too often, we see organizations build and maintain siloes of information. A great example of this is the typical division of information between PLM and ERP. The fact is, business users need the information from both systems, to be able to efficiently perform their job duties. For example, a "costed" bill of material as it goes from a concept to production through to service. This needs the product information held within PLM and the financial information that comes from ERP to understand and make correct product decisions, such as, the cost difference between a current revision of a product and an earlier configuration.

PLM Needs to Incorporate "Real Time Data" and "Analytics"

Incorporating "real time" data" input into your product development process and utilizing "analytics" to start trending and recognizing potential issues is key to delivering new quality products to market faster. Think about incorporating unit, system and product testing results into the same environment where engineering is designing and making concept and engineering decisions. The power of this type of solution can then be extended into the manufacturing and service environments, incorporating field data and performance into your decision criteria. It actually turn your business into a closed loop environment—from idea to product development and manufacturing to "in the field" feedback mechanism while introducing augmented intelligence for quicker learning.

These are some of the key ways to realize the value of your PLM journey. If you're thinking about starting or are in the middle of your PLM journey, give us a call, we can help you where ever you are in your PLM journey. We have the expertise and experience to turn your vision into a reality.

Next Month: How to Manage Your Company's Regulatory Compliance Needs