The importance of having an Enterprise PLM System for your organization
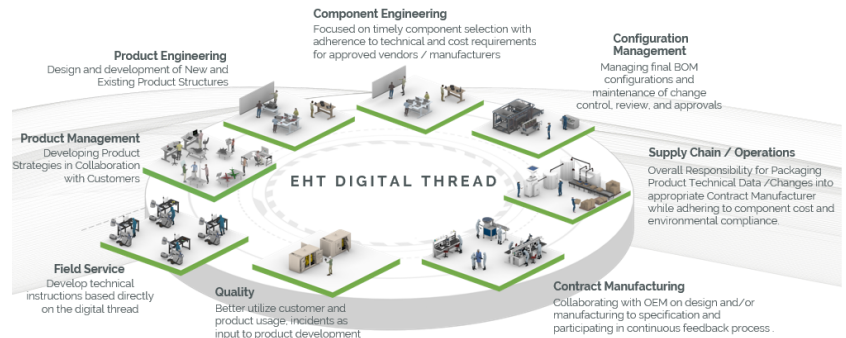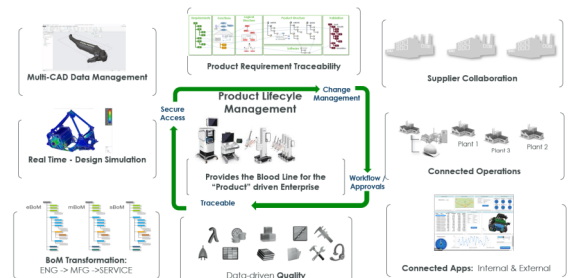
Why should an organization consider an Enterprise Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution? If an organization develops, manufactures and services their own original equipment, companies need to manage and utilize their product information both internally and externally to create great value. PLM provides a configured set of information that is utilized throughout the design, validation, manufacturing and service of the product. It also provides a collaborative environment with your development partners, suppliers and extended supply chain. PLM provides the needed "lifeline of information" for all functional areas and partners eliminating miscommunication and assumptions that eliminates rework, shortens time to market and reduces overall costs to the company. The different views (Sales, Design, Manufacturing and Service) of this information and the needed understanding that the information you are viewing, creating, editing and adding to, represents a known and understood configuration -"In Design", "In Validation", "In Production", "End of Life".

Four areas that need to be addressed in your Enterprise PLM solution to ensure the value is realized by you company are:

1. **Process Transformation:** This encompasses the way an organization executes its business activities. The primary goal is to make internal processes less cumbersome, and more efficient and transparent.

2. **Organizational/Cultural Transformation**: When going through a significant change, the impact to the employees and how they embrace and embed these changes to their everyday work responsibilities and activities needs to be understood, aligned and embraced by the employees. If not, the resulting resistance, pushback and inefficiencies can create the opposite impact to what was intended with your digital solution.

3. **Technology Transformation:** Technology by either swapping current technology or the addition of new innovative technology to either enhance or provide new capabilities is the digital aspect of the transformation.

4. **Incorporation of Analytics**: Incorporating "real time" data input and utilizing "analytics" into your product development processes to start understanding trending and recognizing potential issues is key to delivering new quality products to market faster. The power of this type of solution can then be extended into the manufacturing and service environments, incorporating field and performance data into your decision criteria.

The value of implementing an Enterprise PLM solution for the organization is a game changer. What we mean by this is that the value realized within engineering is great, however extending the solution to the enterprise, results in an exponential benefit. Why is that? It comes from the number of people and additional use cases that the information, created and configured in engineering is used in other disciplines, while providing the base definition for other functions to add information that can support the product throughout the different lifecycles of the product's life. From

utilizing and adding information to create digital work instructions for Manufacturing, to the addition of key quality characteristics from the engineering model for the inspection process and incorporating service parts and documentation for the service of the product. This being just a short list of some of the value that comes from going from an Engineering focused PLM solution to an Enterprise PLM solution.

At DRIVEN-4 we have had experience and have travelled the tough road needed to go from a PDM foundation to an Enterprise PLM. We also have extensive experience on defining the strategy and roadmap to ensuring our customers realize the benefits of an Enterprise PLM solution. If you'd like to discuss this further give us a call!

Next Month: Technology Trends to watch for in 2025