



## Improved Business Efficiency - Integrated PLM & ERP

When you think about providing your organization and employees with the right tools and information to perform their role and job at an optimal level, you think about how that potentially would enable your operational efficiencies. When I speak of ERP, I include key business information such as financial information, customer information, and supply chain transactions. When I speak of PLM, I include key business information such as product designs, product specifications, configured bill of materials for the product and its service.

If your organization designs, builds or sells products or items, this information is key to conducting business. The current reality of today's business systems typically, is that these two worlds are very separate, they are managed by different groups and they are kept in silos. Think about the inefficiencies that we introduce to our employees, customers and suppliers/partners.

With today's technology and speed of business, it is only a matter of understanding and alignment in integrating these two worlds to make our business system environment one. Then we need to provide this combined information to our employees, customers and partners/suppliers in a single pane with the configured information that they need to do their work.

The **three** key principles for developing a successfully integrated ERP/PLM environment are:

### **1. Alignment on a "Single" Source of the Truth/Master for each category of information**

As obvious as this point sounds, it is one that needs to be mentioned to drive reliable and configured information within the organization. We need to align on a coordinated and configured approach to the information; which system is the "Single" source of the truth, "how the configuration" of this information will be managed and the "integration rules" of this information to provide a reliable and consistent set of information to work with.

*Building a managed "single" source of the truth for all information types is the foundation of a successfully integrated business environment!*

### **2. Providing Information that Supports "Lifecycles" of the Product**

This principle is based on the need of understanding the "context" of the information so that users and consumers of the information utilize it in the correct manner to make relevant business decisions. For example, a "pre-production" part/item, is something that you would not want to create a volume of inventory for production manufacturing. Parts/Items that are for "Service Only" may be managed in a very different manner in terms of the supply chain than production parts.

*Understanding information and its state to ensure the needed context to provide the needed information to make sound relevant business decisions!*

### **3. Creating a Single Pane/View for each Employee/Customer/Partner/Supplier**

Single Pane/View for each employee, customer and/or Partner/Supplier with the needed information and ability to edit/add the needed information, is key to providing a business system environment that eliminates waste/duplication and improves speed/efficiency and user adoption. We see a lot of our customers marching towards this kind of user experience and role-based views within their PLM deployment.

*User Adoption will ensure Process and System Embedment!*

Building an integrated business system environment is key to business operational efficiency and provides the platform for process improvement. We have a great deal of experience in developing these environments.

With our experience and expertise, we can help your organization embed these key technologies into your business for success in 2019!

Give us a call or email us, if you'd like to integrate key technology trends into your business operations!

## Next Month: The importance of integrating your PLM & ALM Strategies