

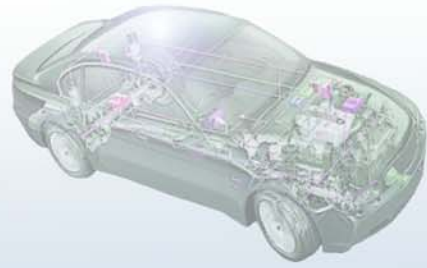
Automotive:

Optimizing Product Development Processes

The Current Situation

The Automotive Product Development Process is characterized by an ever increasing level of complexity. Especially the integration of electronics and software, which proves necessary to fulfil the demands of customers, represents growing challenges to Project and Process Management in Automotive Engineering. Stringent cost and quality targets are to be met, while time to market is essential, to not loose innovations to quicker competitors. Additionally, all of these tasks have to be solved in a dynamic environment, with project contributors coming from different departments, divisions, or even different companies, for instance in a OEM / Supplier relation – most often in an international context.

(2) Optimizing Automotive Product Development Processes



The Approach

While external disturbances to existing project plans are guaranteed, it is the approach to their solution which makes the difference. Hereby, the single most important element in mastering complex Product Development Processes is the flow and the ready availability of information among all project contributors. Thereby, it is crucial that the information provided always resembles the "as is" project situation and is delivered in real time to those who need to know.

The industry-proven, most successful approach to managing complex project environments is Collaborative Project Management. This method is based on:

1. Information: All affected project contributors have to know about a problem / disturbance.
2. Communication: The affected project contributors have to communicate with each other to evaluate the situation.
3. Collaboration: By working with each other, the best solution can be found.

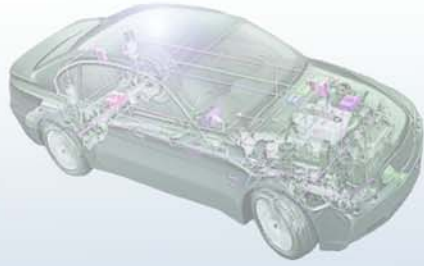
The Solution

The modular Project Management System RPlan has supported many of the largest Automotive OEMs and suppliers for almost two decades. It is entirely based on the principles of Collaborative Project Management, and thus ensures that detailed and consistent information is at any time at the fingertips of all involved people, from designer to program manager to top management. RPlan comprises the following modules:

- Schedule Manager (Online, Offline, Viewer)
- Resource Manager
- Project Controller
- Time Sheet
- Portfolio Manager
- Reporting
- Presentation Graphics



(3) Optimizing Automotive Product Development Processes



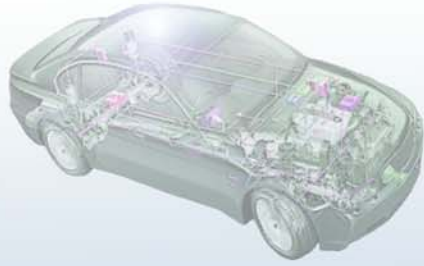
The Examples of Benefit

A European OEM needed to harmonize their processes with regard to availability, evaluation, and component testing for control devices. Especially in testing, the project suffered from bottlenecks, which lead to project delays and budget overruns. ACTANO consultants first assessed the requirements of all involved contributors and their impact on to the development process. In a second step, a synchronization concept was developed, with special consideration given to the various types of processes and their interdependencies. Finally, the synchronization concept was implemented through an operational Scheduling System, based on RPlan. The benefit for the client was the creation of a comprehensive process overview, the implementation of binding principles for project management, and the introduction of project templates as part of his knowledge management.

Growing internationalization coupled with increasing complexity of his product portfolio forced a mid-sized Automotive supplier to re-organize the entire Product Development Process. The goal was to enable the client to react quickly and flexibly to future development challenges, and to optimize time to market while maintaining the existing level of quality.

ACTANO first started with a detailed SWOT analysis and developed a Product Development Process Landscape. Second, Product Development Checklists were developed for operational project management as well as Critical Process Indicators. Finally, Cockpit Charts were introduced as monitoring instrument for top management, indicating Quality, Progress Speed, and Degree of Maturity of each project. RPlan was used to sustain and optimize the re-created Product Development Process in Scheduling, Resource Management, Risk Management, and Reporting. The client was able to increase efficiency in operational project management by 30%, and reduce cycle times of selected processes by as much as 60%, while becoming more flexible to react to late stage changes.

(4) Optimizing Automotive Product Development Processes



ACTANO offers you sustainable optimization for your product development process – by means of holistic solutions, comprising IT and consulting services plus the innovative project management software RPlan.

Based on our methodical competence and proven know-how within project, process and product data management, we optimize your individual development processes. The efficiency in your processes will be increased, the development durations reduced, and your costs cut. For a company-wide networked, continuous and transparent project control, we count on information and communication by means of the RPlan software suite and the method of “Collaborative Project Management”. Even across company boundaries, RPlan enhances the efficient integration of suppliers and partners into the planning and development process. Furthermore, it supports you in achieving your global targets by means of RPlan’s decentralized approach “Cross Company Planning” CCP.

Our customers benefit from our comprehensive experience in all areas and phases of their product development. This is why renowned automotive manufacturers and other companies have been trusting in ACTANO for years.

An extract from the ACTANO customer list: Airbus, AKT, Allgaier, BMW, Bosch, Daimler, Edscha, Europrop International, General Motors, GETRAG FORD Transmissions, Gustav Wahler, Heinz Glas, Hella, Huf, IAV, Kinshofer, Komax, Kostal, KUKA, Lappler, Manz, Marquardt, Mitsubishi, MTU Aero Engines, Osram, Rolls-Royce Deutschland, Schwarz Pharma, Sitech, smart, Stankiewicz, ThyssenKrupp Drauz Nothelfer, ThyssenKrupp Presta, Volkswagen, Vredestein, ZF Getriebe, etc.

ACTANO – we measure our success by your success.

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