



Press Release

Series: Trends in product development management

Part 1: PM2PLM: Synchronization of project management (PM) and product lifecycle management (PLM) leads to highly efficient product development

Munich, February 2010: In most companies today, project management (PM) and product lifecycle management (PLM) are separate elements although both are key project disciplines. On the one hand, a mature project management methodology is of crucial importance in the planning and control of the development process. On the other, PLM encompasses all the data, methods and processes needed to implement a product.

The current separation of the two system worlds hinders the interchange of information between the project management view and the operative engineering view. However, companies that integrate PM and PLM stand to reap clear benefits. The draft component list maintained in the PDM system is linked logically with the generic process model, and status information on change or release workflows in PLM provides important information for project control. The development process configured for each specific product is the basis for further planning in terms of project deadlines, prices and content.

In turn, project management transfers cost and content goals for each process step or milestone to the PDM system. These goals are in the form of scheduled development or change orders. In this way, it is possible to ensure structured product validation and the timely availability of validation results for subsequent development cycles.

By adopting the PM2PLM idea, ACTANO's aim is to bring together the product view with its function and component structure and the process view with its organizational and process structure. For this purpose, an overall concept is needed to ensure that information to be exchanged can be transformed from a reduced process and goals view into a complete product view and vice-versa. Also required is the holistic control of product development by planning and monitoring project and product goals. And finally, suitable methods and tools must be made available to integrate suppliers and development partners into the planning and control processes of cross-company development networks.

At the heart of this concept is the collaborative project management methodology developed by ACTANO. All project and subproject leaders in a shared project are directly responsible for planning and monitoring activities in their particular areas and are able to network with external subprojects by means of communication components. What makes this concept different is that conflicts are resolved in a dialog between process partners and changes are made manually in the system by the project planner responsible. Only in this way can project planners retain complete control despite the various interdependencies. The increasing use of collaborative project management in the automotive industry is evidence of the success and acceptance of the methodology.

You can also download this text from the Internet at www.actano.de.