



PLM Interest Group

PLMuERP Primer

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Foreword: What is the Difficulty with PLM-ERP?

After more than two decades of separate development, and millions of dollars spent in the quest for integration, the solution to PLM-ERP requires a new understanding.

PLM has been a recognised management and technical discipline amongst manufacturing companies for at least a decade, and ERP has been around much longer.

Nowadays, both PLM and ERP are being applied in almost every industry in which companies deliver a product or service on a commercial basis. Both PLM and ERP relate to the management of these products over their lifecycle, and both are necessary for the success of a business.

Despite all of this, the integration of PLM and ERP is still seen as complex and difficult to achieve. Even where companies are implementing 'PLM-ERP' productively, there is no way to share best practices or to learn from what others have already accomplished.

The PLM Interest Group ran a series of 3 PLM-ERP Workshops during the second half of 2012. Staged in the UK, the USA and Germany, the aim of the series was to combine the workshop results in order to produce a simple, yet definitive *PLM-ERP Handbook*. The *Handbook* would set out an authoritative methodology for implementing PLM-ERP, in a neutral format that can be referred to by any company in the world.

During the Workshop series it became clear that, whilst the full *Handbook* covers all of the main technical areas of PLM-ERP, there are some basic areas of understanding that need to be established before it can be used. For this, a "lighter" and more accessible document is needed.

This *PLMuERP Primer* fulfils that purpose. It covers the business and management issues that impact on PLM-ERP; and shows how a new way of looking at the subject can eliminate many of the underlying problems. This new viewpoint has become known as 'PLMuERP' – a term that represents the 'Union' of PLM and ERP.

This has been formalised into a harmonised and comprehensive approach that can transform PLM-ERP implementations from a complex drain on resources to a powerful and essential asset.

The *PLMuERP Primer* is an easy introduction into the latest thinking on PLMuERP. It should be equally usable by a PLM or an ERP manager, and should be understandable for everyone in the wider organisation. The *Primer* can therefore help everyone to work collectively within this new context.

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