

# PLMJ Product Lifecycle Management Journal

*The Journal of the PLM Interest Group.  
Circulated to members and subscribers each calendar month.*

## WHAT'S NEW IN MARCH

The PLMIG continued to support the first live Benchmark to use the PLM Benchmarking Handbook methodology, an activity that took us to the USA for the first time.

After running the two Launch Meetings in February, the cycle moved back into the preparation phase for the three events planned for next month: 'PLM Best Practice' (Paris, 20 April); the second PLM RSIG meeting (Gothenburg, 27 April); and the 'PLM-SCM Workshop' (Gothenburg, 28-29 April).

### PLM Best Practice 2005

We start this month's issue with more thoughts from the Oxford Best Practice event. The discussions there were very productive, and we include some of the views on PLM that were presented by the participants.

This was an open event, and not intended to be a formal workshop, but the delegates came prepared with some ideas based on long experience of PLM, and we reproduce them as 'food for thought'.

With the Paris event approaching in May, we also examine why many of the PLM players, including users, vendors, integrators, consultants, researchers market analysts, commentators, and conference organisers may not be in a situation to quantify and propose PLM Best Practice without some form of co-ordinating organisation.

We also show why a neutral organisation, such as the PLMIG, with its unique mix of members from many background and with diverse interests can take this role.

### Benchmarking Handbook

As the Methodology is used more frequently in real situations, it has become clear that the Navigation Model (*see PLMJ Dec. 04*) can be the basis of other PLM improvement activities.

These include the use by a corporation to identify PLM progress among its member companies, and use by a single company to document its PLM environment prior to developing a strategy for PLM.

Lessons learned from recent use of the Handbook are discussed inside.

### Enterprise Networks

The Research SIG meeting in Brussels covered a wide range of PLM topics over the two days, and Alison McKay of Leeds University accepted the challenge to explain how "angel diagrams" can position

the subject of Enterprise Networks within the PLM Research arena.

The Gothenburg Research meeting will provide an opportunity to take such ideas further, and to consider their suitability as the basis of proposals to the European Commission.

### In the PLMJ this Month:

1. **What's New in March**
2. **PLM Best Practice 2005: Presentations from Oxford**
3. **PLM Benchmarking Handbook: More Uses for the Methodology**
4. **Research SIG: Alison McKay of Leeds University on Enterprise Networks**
5. **PLM Best Practice: Who Can Bell the Cat?**

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