

# PLMJ Product Lifecycle Management Journal

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

## WHAT'S NEW IN MAY

After the three events of April, effort in May has been spent on reviewing and developing the material that each meeting generated.

There are always two objectives for the PLMIG in doing this. Firstly, we aim to publish as detailed and accurate as possible a report on each event, which participants can refer to in the future and use to generate their own ideas.

Secondly, we look at how each event relates to the one that preceded it, to see if patterns emerge and wider conclusions can be drawn.

In May this has happened with the Paris Best Practice Forum, the Research 2005 meeting in Gothenburg, and the PLM/SCM Workshop (also in Gothenburg).

### PLM Best Practice

A one-day Forum in Oxford in February was followed by another one-day Forum in Paris in April. Two different countries, two different sets of participants (and, for the first time, two different languages).

First impressions might be that there were also two different sets of discussions and conclusions. The Oxford meeting was fairly fragmented, with the debate about "what is PLM?" coming early in the day. The Paris meeting was more structured and cohesive. But when the dust settled, the underlying issues were the same.

For PLM Best Practice to be achieved there must be substantial coordinated work to develop a framework that everyone can understand and agree. More details on this inside.

### PLM Research 2005

The two Research SIG meetings were also held in February and April. In this case the detailed discussions at the second meeting developed the ideas of the first, but there is a hidden message: if researchers do not act together now, there may never be any true PLM research. We explain why in this issue.

### PLM-SCM Workshop

Unlike the other two events of last month, the PLM-SCM Workshop was the first of its kind and the *PLM-SCM Guidebook* that will come from it is still under development.

### PLM/ERP

The first issue for the PLMIG to address in the 'PLM Best Practice' initiative was PLM

Benchmarking; the second has been PLM-SCM; and the next will be the vast and complex area in which PLM and ERP meet.

Do they interface, overlap, or collide? We set the scene for the next PLMIG Workshop and kick off what will become a detailed and interactive investigation into the issues involved.

### In the PLMJ this Month:

1. **PLM Research:  
Time is Running Out**
2. **PLM Best Practice:  
Details from the Paris Forum**
3. **At the PLM/ERP Frontier**
4. **PLM/ERP: A Starting Point**

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