

# PLM J Product Lifecycle Management Journal

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

## WHAT'S NEW IN AUGUST

Feedback about the PLM Benefits Reference Model is floating in the rarefied atmosphere of the holiday season, but we will bring news of that next month.

In the meantime we step back and look at how far PLM has progressed in its comparatively short lifetime, and continue the theme of PLM and ERP, taking a closer look at some of the differences between the two areas. The Research SIG is also continuing its progress.

### Benefits Reference Model

The article in last month's issue ran to 3 pages for a reason: it aimed to set out in detail exactly how the Model would be developed and what it would achieve. We are actively seeking opinions both within and outside the PLMIG based on this so that we can validate the concept and produce the material for a possible launch meeting.

Most of the "out of office" replies are for September 5, so we should be able to collect the feedback in time for the next issue.

### PLM's 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Well, perhaps not exactly, but if you accept that PLM as we now know it emerged in 2001 then it has been developing for about four years. We review its progress and predict some of the things to look for in the future.

### PLM and ERP Marketplaces

One of the predictions we make for PLM is a consolidation in the vendor marketplace, and this has already happened in ERP. How did we discover this? By starting with a very basic question: "How well do PLM and ERP people know each other?"

If we are to lead into a workshop on PLM/ERP then we must establish a base of common understanding. See if you can answer the simple question in this issue, and how the answer points to what may be the huge potential for PLM.

### PLM and ERP Data

The PLM-ERP relationship is examined in detail by Menno Huijben of Sofigate, Finland. As the product data in PLM moves through the lifecycle it meets ERP, and the old issues of interfacing arise again.

How should PLM and ERP be positioned? What are the similarities and differences? Concentrating on the details of data ownership in your organisation can help resolve these questions.

### Manufature

The PLMIG has been liaising with the Manufature initiative on behalf of the Research SIG, and this process is ongoing. Manufature seems to have aims that are complementary to those of PLM research, and in this issue we expand on the possible areas of collaboration.

### In the PLM J this Month:

1. **What's New in August**
2. **PLM Update: PLM "State of the Union" 2005**
3. **PLM and ERP - How the Marketplaces Compare**
4. **PLM and ERP - Sofigate on Who Owns the Data?**
5. **Manufature and PLMIG: Potential Collaboration**

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