

# PLMJ Product Lifecycle Management Journal

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

## WHAT'S NEW IN SEPTEMBER

The two main subjects this month are the PLM-SCM Guidebook and the PLM Benefits Reference Model. The PLM-SCM Guidebook is the result of the 2-day workshop held by the PLMIG in Gothenburg, Sweden in April. It is due for release on October 10.

The basis for the PLM Benefits Reference Model was set out in the July issue of the PLMJ, and interest is building for launch events that may be held in November.

### Geography

PLM is a global subject, and implementing PLM requires internal and external collaboration across national and continental borders.

Membership of the PLMIG mirrors this, with 17 countries represented in 2005, one more than last year.

It would help to have some kind of centralised PLM development framework, run by the PLMIG, which could be worked on in parallel by groups of organisations from the same country. The proposed PLM Benefits Reference Model could provide this framework.

### PLM Benefits Reference Model

Two further problems of collaboration across borders are faced by multinational companies who are users of PLM. Firstly, the sheer size of the organisation can make it difficult for their

PLM team to reach effectively across all of the remote sites, and not to become isolated. Secondly, the size of many proposed PLM projects is such that senior directors cannot be persuaded to approve them.

The PLM Benefits Reference Model, with its detailed participative framework, will allow several multinational organisations to work together without competitive pressure and in a very constructive environment, and could overcome this problem.

### PLM-SCM

It has taken some time to convert the findings of the April workshop on PLM and Software Configuration Management into a Guidebook, due mainly to the complexity of the subjects.

In this issue of the PLMJ we look at the background to the two subjects, and the underlying principles on which the Guidebook is based.

### In the PLMJ this Month:

1. **What's New in September**
2. **Global Collaboration [1]: The effects of Geography on PLM**
3. **Global Collaboration [2]: How Multinationals can collaborate via the Benefits Reference Model**
4. **PLM and SCM: about the Guidebook**
5. **The PLM Journal: Your views on its future**

### The PLM Journal

For the first time in its 21 issues, the *PLM Journal* considers itself this month. In 2006 the 'end of the month' format might be too inflexible for the initiatives that are planned. We ask for your views on the best publication frequency and format, and on the type of articles that we should publish.

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