

PLMJ Product Lifecycle Management Journal

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NEWS FROM Q4

The focus of Q4 has been the staging of new events to address PLM Maturity and PLM Research.

PSA Peugeot Citroën hosted the first workshop on PLM Maturity in Paris on 05-07 December, and EPFL hosted the *PLM Research 2007* meeting in Lausanne on 23-24 January.

Both of these produced new insights into their subject areas, and these are reviewed in this issue.

Looking ahead, we also examine how the PLMIG might fill a void in the current user group landscape.

Maturity Reference Model

The Paris workshop started with a “clean sheet” and uncovered more issues about PLM Maturity than could be resolved within the 3 days.

Many of these are covered in this issue, together with the likely format of the *PLM Maturity Reference Manual* that will be the workshop deliverable.

They include: why PLM Maturity must be given a matrix rather than a single score; how maturity scores might be used in mergers and acquisitions; and the possible executive tools that will be needed.

PLM Research

Advance publicity for the RSIG meeting in Lausanne was deliberately aimed away from short term research possibilities so that the high level state of PLM Research could be discussed.

Following in a sequence that started in Brussels in 2005, the Lausanne meeting reviewed the needs of industry and academia, and considered a ‘FuturePLM’ scenario to develop synergy between them. This issue also contains an industrialist’s guide to discovering the current state of research into PLM.

User Groups

The complexity of PLM may require a new user group structure if corporate needs are to be built into vendor plans. We discuss the issues inside.

Initiatives in 2007

The BRM and MRM initiatives will continue in 2007, generating new working material for assessing PLM Benefits and Maturity. They

should also produce a new Toolkit for members, to complement the *Self-Assessment Toolkit* of 2006.

In the PLMJ this Issue:

1. **Q4 Overview**
2. **PLM Maturity: Paris Workshop**
3. **PLM Maturity: Structure of the Reference Manual**
4. **PLM Maturity: Issues for the Reference Model**
5. **PLM Research: Lausanne Coordination & Planning Meeting**
6. **PLM Research: Where in the World Is It?**
7. **User Groups: A Voice for PLM Implementors**