

PLMJ Product Lifecycle Management Journal

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NEWS FROM Q1

The PLM Maturity Workshop held in Paris in December 2006 generated a great deal of new material and structure on the subject.

PLMIG workshops are always very intensive, and end with all of the results in the form of flip chart pages and handwritten notes. In Q1 these have been written up to create the Version 1.0 *PLM Maturity Reference Manual*, which is reviewed in this issue.

We also cover three of the current issues affecting PLM: how directors/VPs can understand and relate to it; how PLM and Quality overlap; and how PLM implementations can be planned ahead for a year or more without knowing all of the details at the start.

Maturity Reference Manual

The Q4 2006 PLMJ covered the PLM Maturity concepts that were highlighted by the Paris workshop.

This issue continues with an overview of the workshop deliverable, the *PLM Maturity Reference Manual*.

Not only are there two possible scales that can be used to measure PLM Maturity, but there are also two approaches that can be used in practice to perform the assessment. We describe the scales, the five subdivisions that are common to each, and how the Structure-Based and Activity-Based methodologies differ.

Executive PLM

This question has been around longer than the PLMIG - "How do we convince the CEO (or CFO, or the board) of the value of PLM?"

PLMIG experience has shown that this is only a subset of the true problem. The real need is to reach a state in which all "executives", at board and at operational level, are fully convinced that PLM projects are a fundamental part of improving the business.

As with many things in PLM, the answers are complex and are discussed inside.

TQM and PLM

"Total Quality" may seem to be a thing of the past, but Quality itself is back on the agenda.

Quality and PLM share a common approach to business improvement, and implementing one helps the other.

Understanding how this works will benefit both.

Project Management

It can be very difficult to define a complete set of

project or programme plans for PLM from "now" to completion. Many of the details are unknown at the start, and management will want cost-benefit figures before approval.

PLMIG workshops have uncovered a new approach known as *Generative Project Planning* which is summarised in this issue.

In the PLMJ this Issue:

1. **Q1 Overview**
2. **PLM Maturity: Overview of the Version 1.0 Reference Manual**
3. **Executive PLM: A New Point of View**
4. **Quality and PLM: Where the Synergy Lies**
5. **Generative Project Planning: A PLM-Oriented Approach**

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