



PLM Interest Group

PLM Manager's Handbook

A compilation of the knowledge and fundamental principles of PLM in user companies, generated by over 20 years of PLMIG workshops and initiatives.

This is not a book, or theoretical treatise. It is a reference manual for everyone who wants to understand how PLM works in the real world.

Roger Tempest, PLMIG Co-Founder

0 Executive Summary

Everything in PLM revolves around the PLM Manager of the user company - or, in large corporations, the collective PLM Team who embody the PLM aims and expertise of the enterprise.

The PLM Manager is the 'Prime Mover' in the user implementation: the person the vendors support, the integrators develop for, and the consultancies advise.

There is still no accepted definition of what a PLM Manager should know, but one inescapable fact remains - when someone is assigned to the role, they always look for a source of greater knowledge to tap into: the sort of advice that might be given by an older or more experienced colleague or mentor.

The *PLM Manager's Handbook* is the embodiment of that experienced advice, in written form. It is the product of over 20 years' work by the PLMIG in Europe and North America, investigating and codifying the most difficult tasks in PLM. In over 130 pages, it explains the concepts and fundamental truths of PLM in their most concise form, showing the PLM Manager the true scope of the role and the fast track to accurate solutions.

This *Handbook* will also be of use to those who serve and assist user companies by creating an understanding of what life is like for the PLM Manager, enabling them to imagine themselves in the PLM Manager's position and see the problems and solutions of his or her world.

The *PLM Manager's Handbook* is structured into 8 logical parts, starting with the Role itself and presenting the Fundamentals that every PLM Manager should understand and apply. Every implementation is different, so Positioning is explained to ensure that the everything starts from the right place. There are sections on Specialist Knowledge and Business Knowledge, which complete the basics; and then the document moves through Advanced PLM, Metrics and Progression, and how to approach the long-term future.

The PLM industry has long needed a neutral Body of Knowledge, and the *Professional PLM Initiative* is working to create it. This *Handbook* is the starting point - a kernel of accurate information at the heart of the PLM process, around which other knowledge and material can coalesce. There is an email link for readers of the *Handbook* to ask questions and make suggestions, and this ongoing feedback is likely to develop into more new material.

This is not an encyclopaedia or training course: it is a reference book for the PLM Manager who needs to understand and lead the PLM environment he or she happens to be in. References are made throughout to PLMIG tools and manuals that can offer more depth to the various topics, but in fact the journey could go anywhere; Wherever in the 'PLM universe' the PLM Manager looks for information, he or she will be an informed purchaser and may even be a step or two ahead of the advisors.

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