

SAP Solution Brief
mySAP Product Lifecycle Management



LIFE-CYCLE DATA MANAGEMENT WITH mySAP™ PRODUCT LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

The mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management (mySAP PLM) solution supports life-cycle data management by providing an integrated environment for handling all product-related information. Companies in the discrete, process, and consumer product industries can use mySAP PLM to evaluate and leverage the complete spectrum of product and project data – from documents and product masters to service and maintenance details – and then distribute the information inside and outside the company. By making highly reliable data accessible to all stakeholders, mySAP PLM empowers companies to make better, more informed decisions.

Innovative companies know that to be competitive, they need to leverage product information to improve productivity, profitability, and decision making. But data management can be a real challenge today, particularly for discrete and process manufacturers that need to effectively manage massive amounts of product design and production data. In most cases, critical information is locked away in departmental silos, making it difficult to access, control, and share it across the enterprise. Product development processes may be hindered by a lack of internal and external collaboration because data stovepipes scattered across the enterprise contain inconsistent product data. Data management may be complicated further because of the sequential flow of data. And data-management challenges are only intensified by constant product development time pressures and unrelenting demand for both more product choices and better quality.

To address these issues, your business needs to treat the product life cycle as part of its total business strategy. Mastering the product life cycle means mastering product information. You need an innovative, integrated approach to managing specifications, bills of materials (BOMs), routing and resource data, project structures, and related technical documentation throughout the product life cycle.

Making Information Useful with mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management

Life-cycle data management is the foundation of the mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management (mySAP PLM) solution. Using the solution’s life-cycle data management tools, you can maintain all product-related data throughout the entire life cycle of a product. Equally important, you can access and leverage that information to help drive your company’s success.

mySAP PLM makes product life-cycle information accessible and useful enterprise-wide and beyond by helping you manage all product-related data, including product structures; documents; specifications, recipes, and BOMs; and all related configuration and change management processes. The solution also supports product development with seamless integration of authoring tools, such as computer-aided design (CAD) systems, office applications, and analysis tools. You can also access accurate, up-to-date information on actual product configurations from the beginning to the end of the product life cycle. In addition, the solution provides as-built and as-maintained structures for the service and maintenance phases of products.

Life-Cycle Data Management Across the Enterprise and Beyond

mySAP PLM supports the key components of life-cycle data management, including the following:

- Document management
- Product master and structure management

- Specification and recipe management
- Service and maintenance structure management
- Change and configuration management

Document Management

The SAP® Easy Document Management application included with mySAP PLM helps you manage all of the critical details related to products. The application integrates the breadth of documents in your product life-cycle processes, allowing you to seamlessly cross boundaries to collaborate effectively. Flexible structuring options make it easy to integrate data in day-to-day business processes to best suit your business goals, and version management ensures that important processing statuses are recorded. Flexible status management, comprehensive classification functions, and links to all important logistical data enable more efficient processing of documents. And when you need to record the processing status of an important document, just one click transfers it to the archiving system. The software can also automatically archive data when it reaches a certain status. You can retrieve archived data at any time.

To simplify data access, mySAP PLM supports multiple user interfaces for Web access. The solution also includes advanced document management functions, such as file explorers that help you find specific information, as well as connectivity to the SAP NetWeaver® Portal component of the SAP NetWeaver platform.

Product and Project Portfolio Management	Idea Management and Concept Development	Project Planning		Time and Resource Management	Project Execution	Strategic Portfolio Management
Life-Cycle Process Support	Product Development	Development Collaboration and Strategic Sourcing	Prototyping and Production Ramp-Up	Handover to Sales, Service, and Maintenance	Quality Engineering and Improvement	Product Costing
Life-Cycle Data Management	Document Management	Product Master and Structure Management	Specification and Recipe Management	Service and Maintenance Structure Management	Change and Configuration Management	
Corporate Services	Audit Management	Hazardous Tracking and Product Stewardship		Dangerous Goods and Waste Management	Workers' Health and Safety	

SAP NetWeaver®

Figure 1: The mySAP™ Product Lifecycle Management Solution Map

Product Master and Structure Management

With mySAP PLM, you can enter and monitor all of the data that describes and structures products, including initial product design materials, specifications, CAD model data, and BOMs. In addition, you can transfer product information to your sales, planning, manufacturing, and service processes. The solution also provides consistent structures for integrating the data into manufacturing processes (like work scheduling) and management of resources (like production controls). And if you need product information for a specific date, mySAP PLM allows you to retrieve it easily in a browser; you can simply click your way through complex product structures in multiple systems using filters to restrict the data flow to what you need for the task at hand.

The solution also provides other key functions, such as a powerful workbench for maintaining product and process data. Processing BOMs and routings simplify and help automate work scheduling. Integrated views on the standard times, work centers, and basic scrap quantities relevant to costing are readily available. The software also includes mass change options, which are especially useful in repetitive manufacturing. And using the extensive product data maintained in the system, you can process data for specific application areas. Additional focusing functions help you to keep track of what you are doing – even in highly complex product structures.

mySAP PLM also allows you to influence the production process without leaving the product structure. For example, you can schedule a work order and start the production process. In addition, if your customers have different requirements or if you have a large number of product variants, you can adapt the BOMs and production process of a multiple-variant product to meet customer needs – all with minimal effort.

Specification and Recipe Management

mySAP PLM provides support for specification and recipe management so you can speed up the development processes. The SAP Recipe Management application included with mySAP PLM

facilitates the daily management of R & D departments while supporting efficient knowledge sharing, saving valuable time. SAP Recipe Management involves the manufacturing division at an early stage of development so that their input – and the knowledge of other departments – goes into adapting newly developed products for production lines.

Service and Maintenance Structure Management

Service and maintenance structure management is at the heart of any enterprise asset management system. The time it takes to identify and replace a broken spare part is key in determining asset availability and productivity. The SAP Service and Asset Management solution, which is tightly integrated with mySAP PLM, offers top-notch technical asset management, regardless of whether you work with fleet objects, power stations, buildings, or a process. Using a powerful search system, you can find and purchase parts quickly and optimize asset availability. A Web-based interface to supplier catalogs and an e-procurement system for OEM parts helps you further minimize wait times for repairs. You can also view asset information in multiple ways, including by object, by function, by type of individual object, and by level (single or multiple). As a result, you can determine the status of repairs quickly, for example, whether a part has been installed or is in stock, in the workshop, or in transit.

Change and Configuration Management

Manufacturers need to change the technical or aesthetic features of a product – sometimes on a daily basis. Often, these changes correct errors and deficits, which can affect multiple areas of the business and drive up costs. mySAP PLM gives you the flexibility to design change processes, while simultaneously ensuring that changes remain an integral part of your operational processes. At the same time, the solution helps you ensure high product quality so that you can fulfill the quality standards demanded by product liability laws.

Whether a minor or major change is required, you can automate your entire change process through mySAP PLM. For example, if an employee requests changes, the responsible manager can

check the feasibility of the changes, decide how to modify the product, and determine whether the product is already in production. Networking of product information provides a quick overview of all objects that are affected by a change. Assuming the change is approved, mySAP PLM supports various departments as they organize department-specific change processes, but the change process as a whole is bundled and subjected to standardized process control. You can also define change processes step-by-step for simulations, as well as determine the costs of the change before the revised production process is actually implemented.

Throughout the process, mySAP PLM records all data changes, allowing you to trace who made a change, under which conditions, and who released it. You can implement additional approval procedures to meet high-level security requirements. And claims management helps you resolve problems with customers and vendors, as well as internal problems. For example, you can define responses to project variances regarding dates and times using proven methods and activities, allowing you to react quickly in a crisis.

Key Benefits

mySAP Product Lifecycle Management can help you manage all product life-cycle data, including technical documents, parts, and product and process structures, so you can use it to improve productivity, profitability, and decision making. In addition, you can realize the following benefits:

- **Minimized risk**
mySAP PLM helps you reduce risk exposure and lower the cost of engineering changes by providing an integrated set of functions for monitoring, implementing, and controlling them.
- **Better business decision making**
mySAP PLM supports decision making by making data highly visible, reliable, and accessible enterprise-wide.

- **Improved product quality**
Integrated change and configuration management functions ensure product quality throughout the product life cycle.
- **Faster development and reduced costs**
The solution reduces time to market and time to volume through its integrated, collaborative approach to life-cycle data management.
- **Seamless integration with mySAP Business Suite solutions**
An integral part of the mySAP ERP solution, mySAP PLM also works seamlessly with other members of mySAP Business Suite, including the mySAP Customer Relationship Management, mySAP Supply Chain Management, and mySAP Supplier Relationship Management solutions.
- **Better business results**
With mySAP PLM, you can develop innovative products, explore new market opportunities, gain a higher market share, and increase customer satisfaction.

For More Information

For more information, please visit us online at www.sap.com/plm. Or call us at 1-888-727-2955 or contact your SAP customer engagement manager.

Powered by SAP NetWeaver

mySAP PLM is powered by the SAP NetWeaver platform – the open integration and application platform that provides the best way to integrate all systems running SAP or non-SAP software. SAP NetWeaver unifies integration technologies into a single platform and is preintegrated with business applications, enabling change and reducing the need for custom integration.