

Motivation:

- Suppliers of a manufacturing network must “respond to the pressures for continuous innovation and technological adaptation exacerbated by the completion of European internal market and the intensification of competition”. E4 is addressing these needs targeting especially the SMEs which operate in the product development area.
- In all domains concerned with assembled products, the design is nowadays carried out by a network of enterprises which take responsibility of subsystems at the higher tier, and of simpler components at the lower tier. SMEs are most often placed at lower tiers.
- Activities at these lower tiers tend to be short (a few months at most) and plagued with frequent design changes originating from the higher levels.
- In such a context suppliers compete on cost, quality and response time, whereby transparency and reliability are key components of process quality.
- The actual situation is that suppliers and SMEs rely upon a great variety of tools, which are not integrated, difficult to use and often ineffective. High costs are sustained to train the people and acquire tools of different providers as required by the OEMs.

Vision:

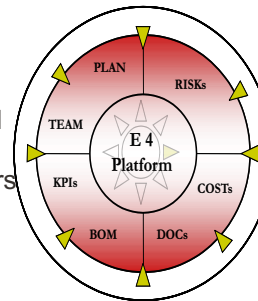
PLATFORM FUNCTIONALITIES

E4 wants to implement an effective, integrated and easy to understand platform which is user friendly and supports the following processes at a low cost.

- Project Management
- Project Monitoring and Control
- Project Traceability and Quality Control
- Product Structure Management
- Knowledge Management
- supports the use of CAE tools on a pay-per-use basis.
- access to CAE service providers.
- connectivity to local OEM systems

The E4 Platform stores all product information

- Bill of material
- Work plan and actions
- Risk collection and control
- Cost evaluation
- Key performance indicators
- Operative teams



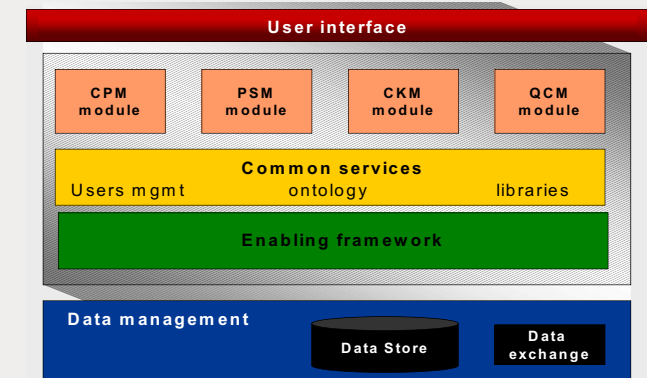
INTRA ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATION

E4 will provide support for making better products in less time, using an innovative approach.

Approach

The main blocks of E4 logical architecture are the following:

- A flexible enabling framework
 - providing data management, data consistency, data security, transaction management
- Horizontal common services
 - encompassing user management, authentication management, data models and in general features common to all vertical modules
- Vertical modules
 - application modules
- Data exchange
 - import and export data to/from E4 to local systems (PDM, PM) or customer's PDM



The vertical modules will be logical clusters of the main functions of the development process using a supplier perspective

- Collaborative Program Management CPM
- Product Structure Management PSM
- Collaborative Knowledge Management CKM
- Quality Control Management QCM

Objective

The E4 project's major aim is to specifically support Eastern Europe enterprises to take active part and jointly develop collaboration initiatives with long-established Western EU R&D and Innovation Centres for intelligent and extended products development in several sectors of the EU manufacturing Industry.





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UNI HB - Universität Bremen (D)

The project is funded by the European Commission within the 6. Framework.

Project acronym: E4

Project full title: Extended Enterprise management in Enlarged Europe

Proposal/Contract no.: 027282



More Information

E4 site:

Internet: www.crfproject-eu.org/frame.asp

E4 portal:

<http://e4.cognovis.de>

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E 4

Extended Enterprise Management in Enlarged Europe



Platform Creation to
improve Collaboration