

8 Resources Every PLM Solution Should Have



Around the globe, manufacturers create a wide range of products varying from high-tech software to bubble gum, and when it comes to product lifecycle management (PLM), the challenges they face tend to be very similar.

These challenges occur in various stages of their product lifecycle management and can range from errors in revision to integration between CAD software and Bill of Materials, improperly managed documents, inefficient processes, poorly managed and executed projects and the list goes on and on.

To tackle these challenges, product manufacturers have been turning to different types of stand-alone software – instead of a complete PLM Solution – to help them with their product lifecycle management needs; but, sometimes this software complicates things more than it helps.





A PLM solution should enhance optimization of every step of the product lifecycle, creating higher quality products, launching new products in less time at a lower cost, and maximizing profits in a centralized format so users don't have to go through an array of different software from different companies in order to conduct their day-to-day activities.

Having the right PLM solution will bring the company and its employees many benefits since the solution will manage the entire product lifecycle, from product creation to end-of-life, in an integrated and centralized environment managing all data and technology.

With the combination of computer-aided design (CAD), product data management (PDM), collaboration tools and content management, a PLM solution will streamline product management and provide employees with the tools to store important product documentation, information, and make real-time decisions based on the latest data.

With that in mind, what resources must a PLM Solution have?

8 Resources

When researching, and acquiring a PLM Solution, along with considering the technical and management related functionalities, you should look for a product that contains these important key features:



01

Product Portfolio Management

The solution should allow companies to identify, prioritize, balance, and manage the mix of product development initiatives that makes the greatest contribution to their strategic investments.

Those involved in product development initiatives should be able to derive priority scores and effectively evaluate competing investments to optimize the application of resources to the highest value opportunities.

Furthermore, it must allows users to analyze different scenarios through simulations, ensuring that they are working on the right innovation initiatives in the right strategic areas by integrating strategy, finances, operationalization and technology.

02

Product Development Management (PDM)

A fully integrated, automated product development management solution that collects and centralizes product data, bringing together all of your stakeholders and giving the organization advanced reporting capability is crucial. It provides the technology and processes needed to capture and manage consistent, accurate and reliable data about your products.

The solution should streamline the most tedious and time-consuming aspects of product management, reinforcing the decision-making process with facts and connecting all of your stakeholders to a centralized information database. It is also essential that the solution is able to offer a complete end-to-end solution to manage all aspects of a product's lifecycle.

Most importantly, the solution must enable organizations to improve overall quality, reduce costs and risks associated with increasing regulatory compliance, and interface with external systems, including manufacturing, CAD, CAE and SDE systems.

03

Process & Workflow Management

A visual, easy-to-use and advanced process modeling and analysis tool to help users better understand, document, and deploy the product development processes is crucial. The solution should use a comprehensive set of tools, empowering users to connect to existing applications and assemble user interfaces.

It should also allow multiple modelers to work on developing and maintaining product development process models concurrently. Furthermore, using a centralized repository, process information and data is permanently accessible to users and guarantees simple navigation through multiple levels of process hierarchy.

It is also important that the solution is able to unify the people, product development processes and content that move workflows, providing tools to automate, monitor and analyze manufacturing and business processes.

04

Project Management

The solution must enable companies to manage their projects, products, people, services and financials by providing a comprehensive set of features that streamlines project management to accelerate project delivery with a low total cost of ownership.

The ability to manage and automate product development and manufacturing project requests, planning, execution, control, and closing processes, automatically sending notifications to those responsible for carrying out tasks, are key resources in a product's project management.

Also, it is essential that it is able to provide several charts and reports for consistent and objective assessment of product development projects, resources and finances, as well as key performance indicator charts to compare results to goals set for projects and products.

05

Document and Content Management

The management, delivery, and control of documents and content are critical to any business, especially those developing and manufacturing products. Organizations can't create and manage their products without proactively managing the documents and content that support their business.

Additionally, content must not only be intelligently moved throughout an organization to support day-to-day business activities, but it must also be secured and controlled end-to-end, to protect corporate assets and avoid litigation later.

The PLM solution should empower your organization to effectively and efficiently automate management of electronic and paper-based documents throughout their entire lifecycle - capture, create, classify, share and secure, archive and destroy.

06

Centralized Data Repository

A common theme you may have noticed throughout this eBook is the importance of having a centralized data repository that makes sure every individual involved in managing the entire product lifecycle has constant access to relevant information from a single centralized repository. Furthermore, this repository should be updated in real time and should allow you to organize data in a way that optimizes the efforts of all those involved.

The solution should be comprehensive and collaboratively solve critical product lifetime management challenges in a centralized and integrated environment. Having interconnected applications in a single workplace replaces many isolated systems that address only a few aspects of product management, leading to costly delays, inefficiencies and errors caused by duplicated functionality, lack of visibility and inconsistent information.

07

Data Analytics

What good is a Product Lifecycle Management solution – or any other software solution – if it can't effectively analyze and efficiently report all of the data gathered throughout the entire lifecycle of a product? Now imagine this impact on a company that develops and manufactures tens or hundreds of products.

Your PLM solution has to allow anyone to easily connect to data, analyze it and create interactive and shareable views. Companies must be able to take what seems to be an indecipherable mass of facts and extract any trends and patterns buried in the data.

Users should also be able to arrange and summarize data, perform comparisons, and extract meaningful information that can be valuable to the organization. Additionally, the solution should offer an integrated, robust and flexible presentation layer that includes different statistics, predictive analytics, queries, comparisons, etc.

08

Access Control

Without control and management of access, your organization becomes more and more exposed to security risks. Not all employees need full access to all product development documents and data. By establishing adequate access controls, your content become safer and you prevent malicious or accidental information changes or deletion.

Some data regarding the product's development may need to be edited by staff members, but other information should be configured as read-only and, depending on the sensitivity of the data, not be able to be accessed at all.

With permission controls, no one can change what they can't access or what has been deemed to be vital to complete their tasks. The solution should allow you to set access controls logically and adjust them as the needs of different departments, teams, function roles and users change.

Now that you've learned about the **8 Resources Every PLM Solution Must Have**, find out more about the most complete and innovative solution in the market for Product Lifecycle Management, regulatory compliance and business excellence



SoftExpert PLM

SoftExpert PLM is a Product Lifecycle Management software that leverages data from across the enterprise to help managers make better decisions about product development, management, design, and production. The solution provides a complete data management system that allows users to assign all of the data necessary to describe design, manufacturing, purchasing, quality/test, and service aspects of product records. Product data can be defined by any product object (parts/components, documents, Bill of Material [BOM], machines/instruments, costs, characteristics, etc.).

Product Portfolio Management

SoftExpert Home Portals My tasks Components Shortcuts

View Initiative (PF012)

Search filters

F	IS	Initiative type	ID #	Name	Revision	Evaluation
☆	100%	IT - IT Applications	00001	Cloud computing	1	815.00
☆	100%	IT - IT Applications	00001	Cloud computing	0	725.00
☆	100%	IT - IT Applications	00002	Mobile workforce	0	910.00
☆	100%	IT - IT Applications	00004	Single Sign-on	0	805.00
☆	100%	IT - IT Applications	00005	Data Center infrastructure migration	0	680.00
☆	100%	Str - Strategic	00006	Spiral Plastic Pipe for water sewage	0	800.00
☆	100%	Str - Strategic	00007	Hot/cold water tube connection structure for plastic faucets	0	830.00
☆	100%	Str - Strategic	00009	high pressure fluid connectors	0	
☆	100%	NPD - New Product Development	00010	High Pressure Water Faucet	0	875.00
☆	100%	NPD - New Product Development	00013	High pressure water faucet for plastic system	0	865.00
☆	100%	NPD - New Product Development	00014	Dual voltage motor vehicle electrical system	0	875.00
☆	100%	Str - Strategic	00015	Create a Consultancy Project Management Office	0	
☆	100%	NPD - New Product Development	00016	New Gear Box	0	940.00

Total records: 30

SoftExpert Home Portals My tasks Components Shortcuts

View Item (IT016)

Search filters

Quick search

Saved searches

Type

Select type

Advanced filters

Save SEARCH

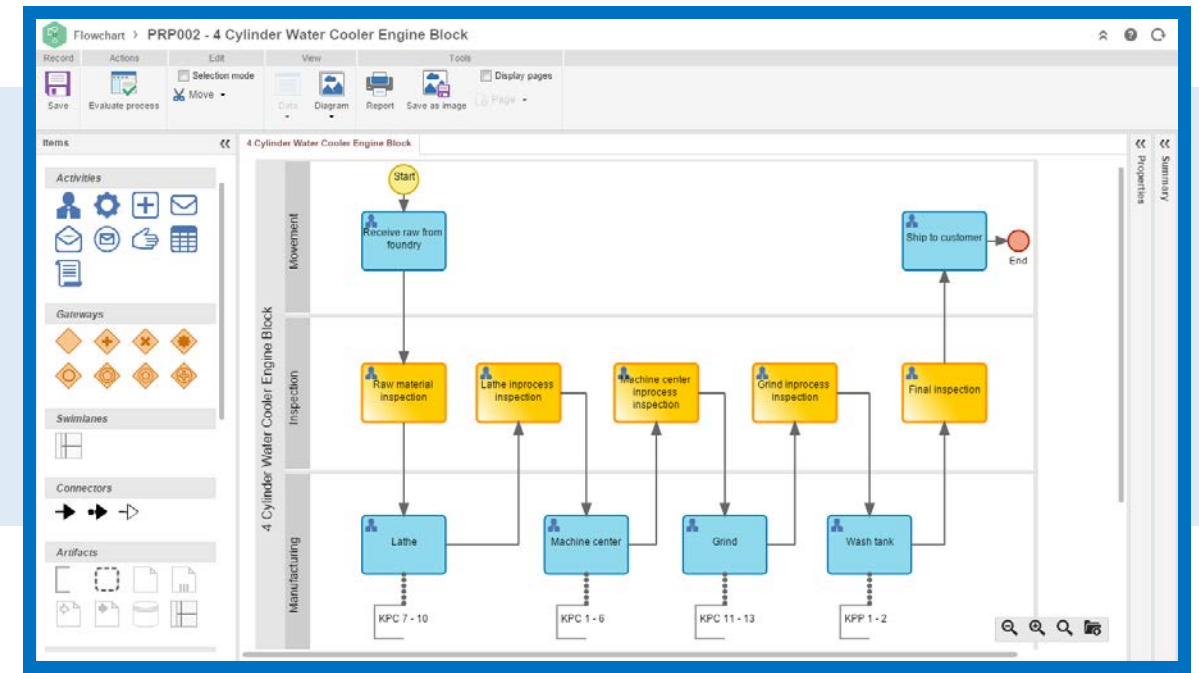
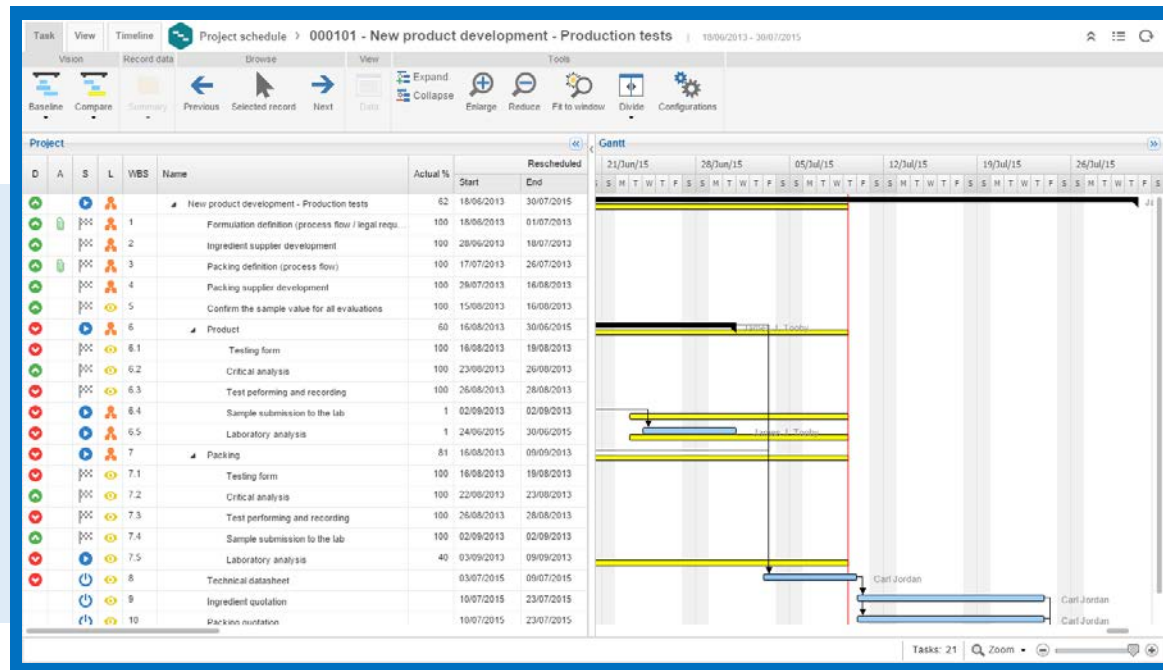
F	S	OS	EF	DS	T	SDS	Item type	ID #	Name	Revision	Revision date	ID #	Name
☆	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	001.01	000031	Gear Box	1	09/07/2015	003	Quality man
☆	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	001.01	1800	Truck Engine	0	16/02/2015	003	Quality man
☆	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	001.18	1801	Fuel supply pump	0	16/02/2015	003	Quality man
☆	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	001.18	1802	Fuel injector pump	0	16/02/2015	003	Quality man

Total records: 81

Display Image

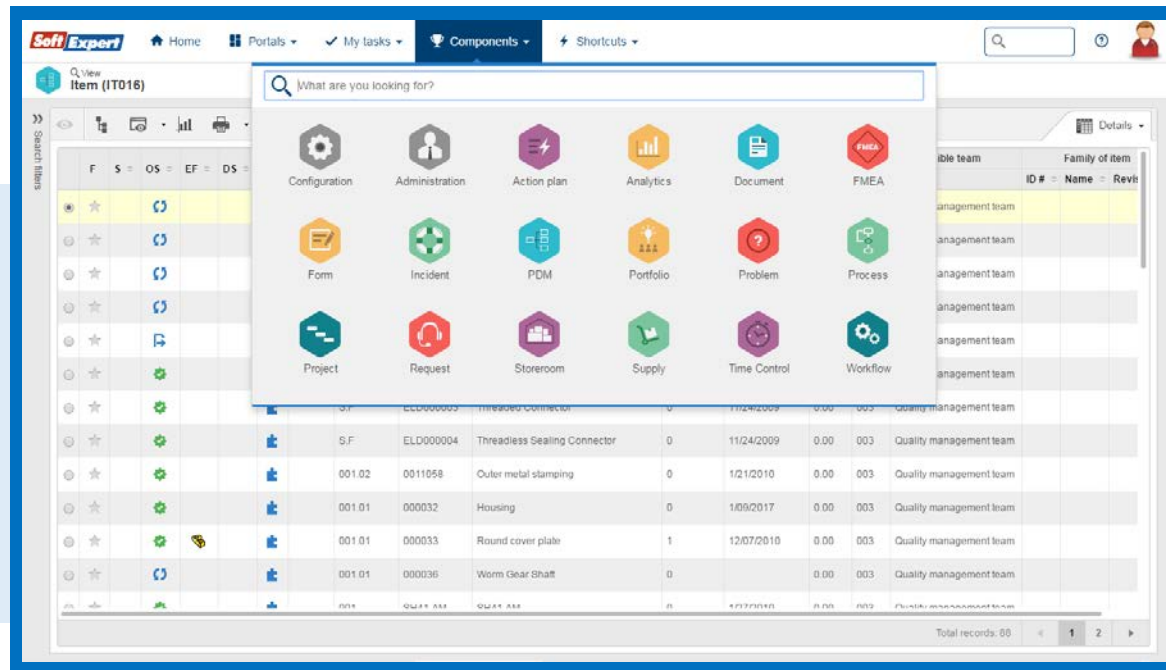
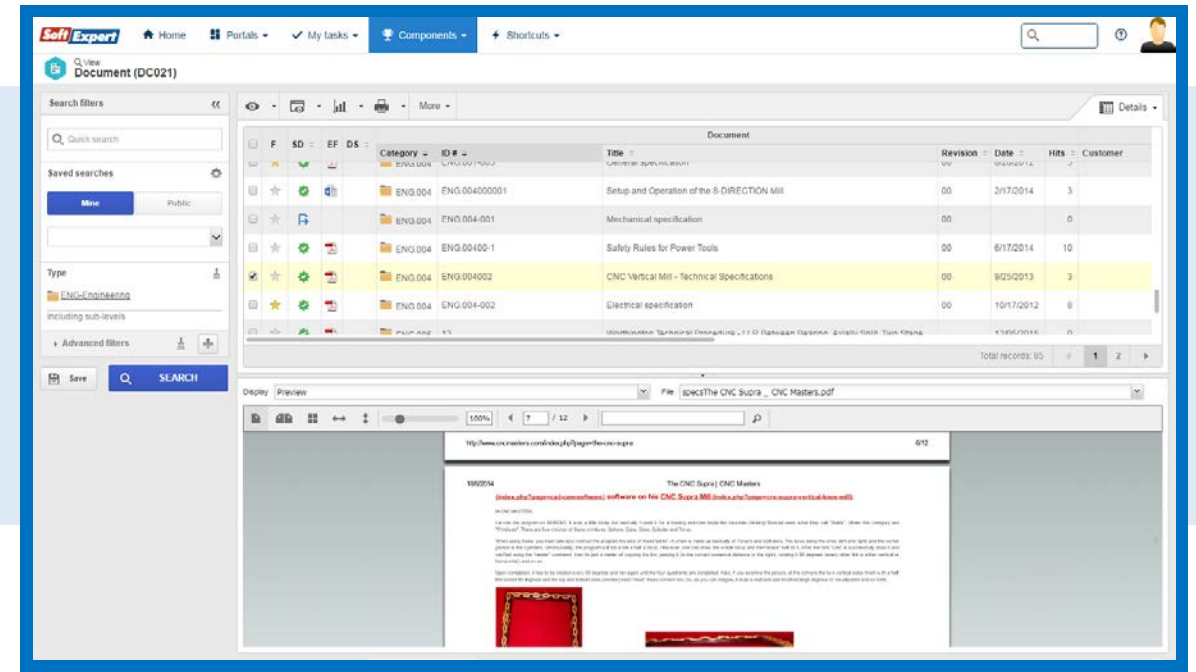
Product Development Management (PDM)

Process & Workflow Management



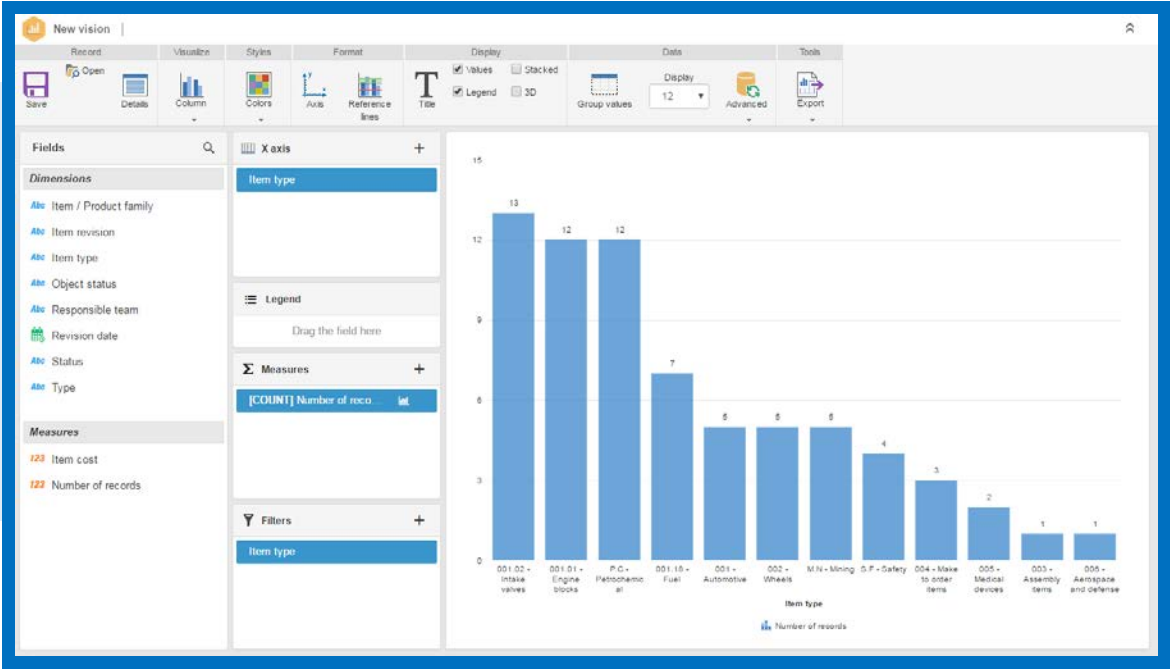
Project Management

Document and Content Management



Centralized Data Repository

Data Analytics



Soft Expert

Home

Portals

My tasks

Components

Shortcuts

Configuration

Item: Item type (IT040)

Search items

Item type

001 - Automotive

002 - Wheels

002.01 - Rims

002.02 - Tires

002.03 - Brakes

002.04 - Brake discs

003 - Assembly items

M.N - Mining

P.C - Petrochemical

S.F - Safety

004 - Make to order items

F&B - Food and Beverage

005 - Medical devices

006 - Aerospace and defense

007 - SW

Details

Item type data

ID #001

NameAutomotive

General

Attribute

Revision

Security

Electronic file

Public

Restricted

Type	Name	Controls	Permission	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User	Robert Smith	Add, Edit, Delete, Security data, List, View	Allow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department	Sales	Add, Edit, Delete, Security data, List, View	Deny
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department	Advice	Add, Edit, Delete, Security data, List, View	Deny
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department	Executive Management	View	Allow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department	Information Technology	Edit, Security data, List, View	Allow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department	Engineering	Add, Edit, Delete, Security data, List, View	Allow

Total records: 6

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Robert Smith

Access Control

SoftExpert Excellence Suite



SoftExpert Excellence Suite is the most comprehensive framework of independent yet united solutions to achieve business performance excellence, streamline corporate governance, risk and compliance programs, and ensure continuous business process improvement.

Companies may not need all applications at once, or may want to deploy one application module at a time, growing gradually as the need arises. Whatever the strategy chosen, only a fully shared environment allows its applications to fit together like puzzle pieces and work seamlessly.

About SoftExpert

SoftExpert is a market leader in software and services for enterprise-wide business process improvement and compliance management, providing the most comprehensive application suite to empower organizations to increase business performance at all levels and to maximize industry-mandated compliance and corporate governance programs.

Founded in 1995 and currently with more than 2,000 customers and 300,000 users worldwide, SoftExpert solutions are used by leading corporations in all kinds of industries, including manufacturing, automotive, life sciences, food and beverage, mining and metals, oil and gas, high-tech and IT, energy and utilities, government and public sector, financial services, transportation and logistics, healthcare, and many others.

SoftExpert, along with its extensive network of international partners, provides hosting, implementation, post-sales support and validation services for all solutions to ensure that customers get the maximum value from their investments.



Software for Performance Excellence

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