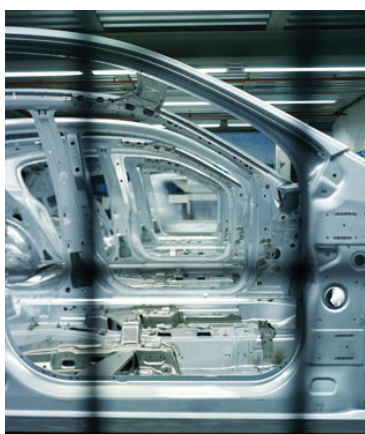


Adobe solutions for external engineering change order management

Streamlining and automating the external engineering change order process



With the expansion of global supply chains and the heavy reliance on partners participating in product design, manufacturers must manage engineering changes effectively. The process of communicating changes to multiple partners across enterprises and ensuring fast responses to these changes is often labor-intensive, paper-laden, and error-prone.

Studies show that at least 60% of processes that require information distribution to external partners are handled manually. Further, at least 50% of all collaboration within enterprises happens informally. Despite these inefficiencies, many organizations continue to employ manual, paper-driven processes. One key reason is that many existing applications are often difficult to implement, use, and maintain.

Manufacturers need a solution that can improve external collaboration between multiple suppliers, partners, and customers, thereby reducing the cost of making changes and helping bring products to market more quickly.

Adobe solutions extend manufacturers' existing PLM systems, enabling them to streamline and automate the external engineering change order process. Adobe solutions help manufacturers:

- Communicate change intent to all stakeholders more easily
- Improve the effectiveness of people-centric processes
- Reduce dependency on paper
- Deliver richer collaboration to all partners
- Manage the approval process automatically
- Maintain security and version control of intellectual property

Simplifying information exchange among partners

Adobe solutions enable anyone—anywhere—to disseminate information seamlessly. They automate manual processes while still allowing paper integration where necessary. These solutions are especially beneficial in the engineering change management process because they enable engineers, quality assurance staff, product owners, and suppliers to communicate changes and approvals quickly and securely.

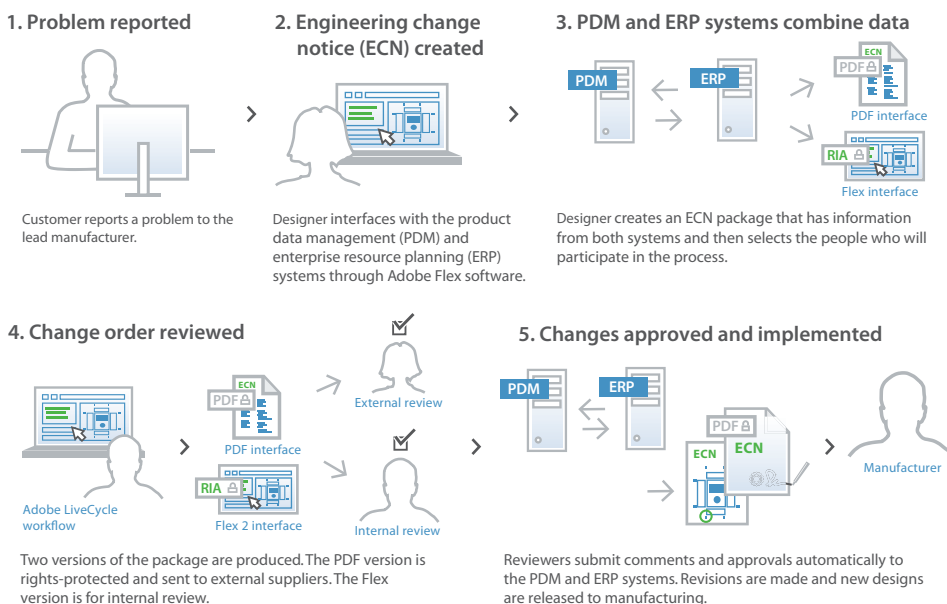
Adobe products that help automate, manage, and control extended manufacturing processes include:

- Adobe® Acrobat®
- Adobe Acrobat Pro Extended
- Adobe LiveCycle® ES (Enterprise Suite)
- Adobe Flex®

Leveraging existing technology

Adobe enables manufacturers to deliver information to anyone—anywhere—by harnessing the power and ubiquity of Adobe Reader® and Adobe Flash® Player software. Both are free and universally available, enabling partners to fill out and interact with digital forms without having to buy or install new software on their desktops. In fact, Adobe solutions seamlessly leverage and extend the power of organizations' existing PLM applications.

External engineering change order management



Moving from paper to digital

Many organizations still manage engineering changes using paper-based forms that can be cumbersome and difficult to track. Adobe enables organizations to convert paper forms to digital forms, providing more efficiency, control, and security.

The digital form is an interactive PDF file that can be automatically populated with CAD drawings, images, or metadata from a PLM system and routed as part of an engineering review process. As the form circulates, it can be dynamically tailored to each person involved so that it displays only the information pertinent to the respective reviewer. Digital rights can also be applied to control access at every step.

During the process, participants can access real-time review status, provide feedback from within the form, and apply digital signatures. At the end of the process, data can be transferred back to the PLM system automatically.

Ensuring security when forms are routed outside the enterprise

When forms are routed to external partners, the document's intellectual property protection can be controlled with digital rights management, granting partners temporary access to documents during the review process. Manufacturers can customize access, restricting reviewers from printing or saving the document. Access controls can be changed at any time during the review process, and a complete audit trail of the process can be maintained.

Maximizing productivity to increase profits

Getting products to market quickly is key to gaining and maintaining a competitive edge.

By leveraging existing PLM applications and harnessing the power of Adobe solutions, manufacturers can respond to engineering changes across the supply chain more quickly. This ensures that products are ready to go to market in less time, resulting in decreased costs and increased profits.

For more information

To learn more about Adobe solutions for manufacturing, visit www.adobe.com/manufacturing.



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