

PLM Global Collaboration

Problem Statement, with Use Cases, Objectives,
Desired State, and Go Forward Plan

Release 3.1

June 2025



Abstract

Collaboration among Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and their product design and manufacturing engineering partners and suppliers is a key aspect of any major aerospace and defense (A&D) program execution.

Process analysis by the A&D PLM Action Group (AD PAG) project team has shown that many different data formats, Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software systems, and enabling infrastructure technologies exist across the OEMs and their supply base.

This paper explores the need to enable frictionless operation between OEMs and their suppliers.

Release 1.0 defined the problem statement, including (As-Is) current state use cases.

Release 2.0 expanded upon Release 1.0 to include objectives, a description of the desired state (To-Be), the expected business impacts, and a go-forward plan.

Collaboration Management System (CMS) Research Report defines the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and checklist and includes automation from a third party.

This Release 3.0 defines the requirements to enable global collaboration and builds from Releases 2.0/2.1 and the *Collaboration Management System (CMS) Research Report*.

Dedication

This position paper is dedicated to

Kenneth J. Versprille, Ph.D. (1947-2024)

Team Member and Contributor – Friend and Mentor



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Revision Record

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	June 2019	Initial Release (Edition 1 of Project Phase 3)
2.0	March 2022	Edition 2 of Project Phase 3 includes objectives, the desired state (To Be), and a go forward plan
2.1	August 2022	Updated ISO-related footnotes based on ANSI guidance, and updated the About CIMdata section
3.0	July 2024	Addition of requirements (Edition 3 of Project Phase 3) for global collaboration; this completes Phase 3
3.1	June 2025	Updated Figure 16 and caption to include reference to Courtesy of The Boeing Company

Executive Summary

The Aerospace and Defense Product Lifecycle Management Action Group (AD PAG) is an association of aerospace Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and aircraft engine manufacturers within CIMdata’s globally recognized PLM Community Program, which functions as a PLM advocacy group.

A key business issue or pain point, identified by this industry group is that collaboration within a large, global, distributed supply chain of design and development partners is seriously hindered by relying on traditional, document-based development processes. As such, a major business challenge identified is to achieve OEM and supply chain collaboration through bi-directional exchange of Technical Data Packages (TDPs) via digital tools and model-based processes.

In response, a project team of domain experts from the AD PAG member companies was established to evaluate current collaboration practices and recommend requirements to help the A&D industry reach its goal of simplified PLM global collaboration. The four-phase project timeline is illustrated and described below.

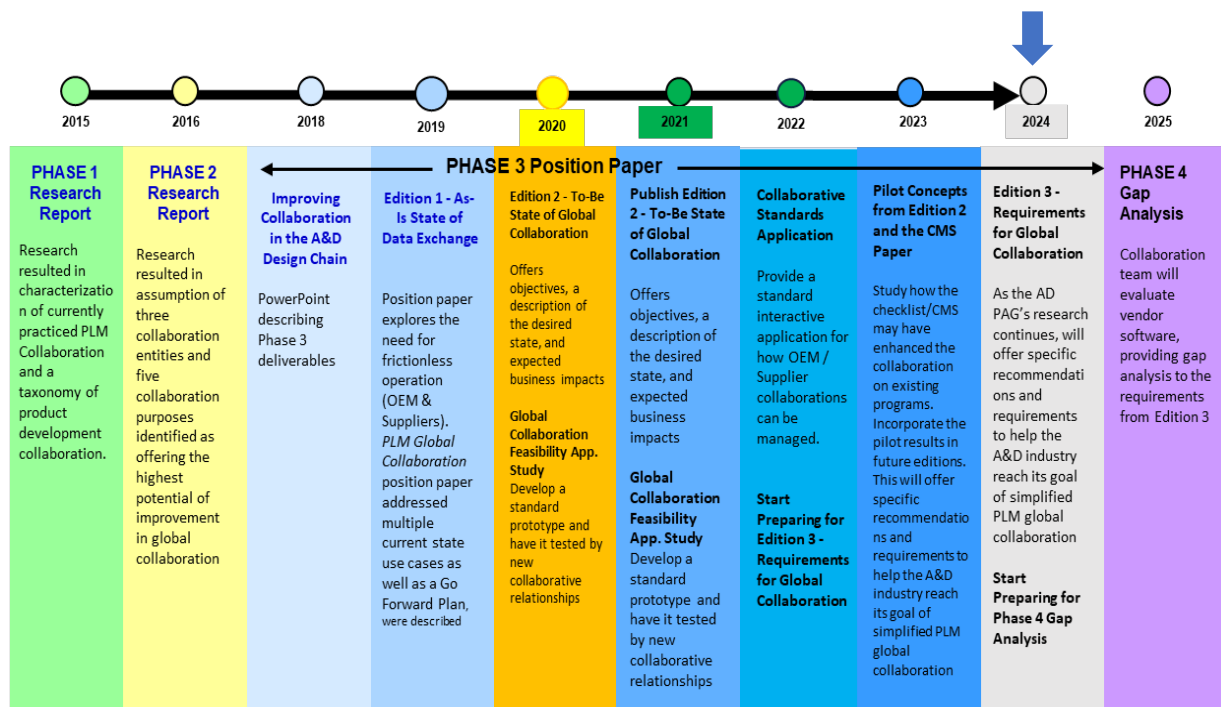


Figure 1 – Timeline and Status

PHASE 1 – Research Report – Released June 2015

Research resulted in the characterization of currently practiced PLM collaboration and a taxonomy of product development collaboration.

PHASE 2 – Research Report – Released June 2016

Research resulted in the assumption that the three collaboration entities and five collaboration purposes were identified to offer the highest potential for improvement in global collaboration.

PHASE 3 – Position Paper – November 2016 – July 2024

Investigation of the potential for improved collaboration between OEMs and suppliers progressed as follows:

Improving Collaboration in the A&D Design Chain (Released November 2016) is a PowerPoint presentation describing Phase 3 deliverables.

Edition 1 - (Release 1.0, July 2019) – Informally referred to as the “As-Is State of Data Exchange” was a position paper exploring the need for frictionless operation between OEMs and suppliers. This edition of the *PLM Global Collaboration* position paper identified multiple current state use cases and provided detailed descriptions and challenges for each, including business consequences and analysis of the root cause of current collaboration problems, and described a Go Forward Plan.

Edition 2 - (Release 2.0 and 2.1, August 2022) – Informally referred to as the “To-Be State of Global Collaboration” was built onto Edition 1. The newest information since Edition 1 started with the *Objectives* section and included a description of the desired state and expected business impacts.

Collaboration Management System (CMS) Description - (Released May 2023) addressed how OEM and supplier collaborations can be managed.

Edition 3 - (Release 3.0, July 2024) – Informally referred to as the “Requirements for Global Collaboration” was built onto Editions 1 and 2/2.1. It continues the team’s research and offers specific recommendations and requirements to help the A&D industry reach its goal of simplified PLM global collaboration. Edition 3 completes Phase 3 of the project.

PHASE 4 - Gap Analysis – Estimated Completion Date 2025

The Global Collaboration team will evaluate vendor collaboration software, providing gap analysis related to the requirements presented in Edition 3.

Current research by the Global Collaboration team was focused on the following complex data flow processes of the product lifecycle:

- Requirements
- Technical collaboration contracts
- Initial design
- Configuration control and change management
- Manufacturing data
- Quality control data
- In-Service, aftermarket data (i.e., IPC, CMM, Service Bulletins)
- Regulatory data exchange

A typical product lifecycle is illustrated in the following figure.

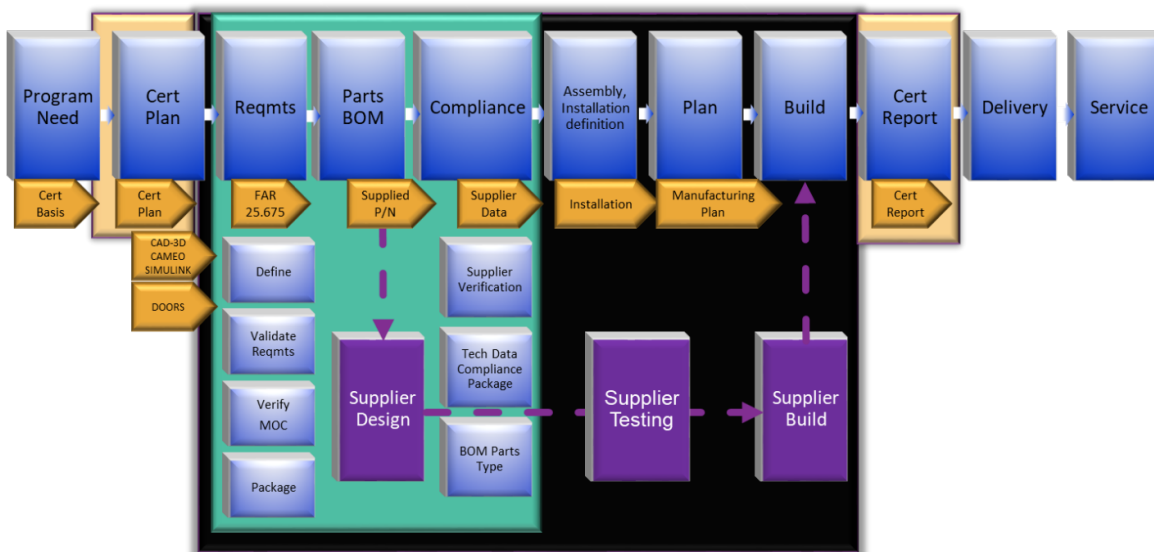


Figure 2 – Typical Product Lifecycle

Figure 2 captures the collaboration activities between the OEM and suppliers, including the Development phase of a program. These activities exist between the requirements and parts BOM product lifecycle. The development activities require collaboration and data exchange between the OEM and the suppliers. It is imperative that the models exchanged can be integrated and that the requirements are verified (refer to Section 3.6 *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels*).

A key topic addressed here is a global collaboration that defines a baseline for data exchange processes and standards. In the context of this document, global collaboration is **the mechanism by which a group of participants work together**. The participants can include all divisions, subsidiaries and affiliates, customers, suppliers, and risk-sharing partners who directly or indirectly collaborate throughout the product lifecycle.

Today, many companies using a PLM system provide collaborative workspaces for exchange and collaboration with their partners. Yet, efficiency remains limited, and the exchange offers poor performance to cover their necessary industrial processes.

As global collaboration and standards are introduced across the A&D industry, participants must realize the many factors that need to be addressed for success. Key global collaboration elements that should be considered include the following:

- Ensuring that the most up-to-date data is available and consistent across sites/companies is critical.
- The primary challenge of the data exchange process is to reach a bi-directional agreement about the work content, the information transfer mechanisms, and the process for solving issues and escalations.
- The data exchange agreement needs to include the alignment of common attributes in supplier systems.
- Intellectual Property (IP) data protection and export regulations must be managed within the platform solution.
- Until a synchronous solution is available, the asynchronous collaboration needs to be optimized.

Objective

The primary objective of this *PLM Global Collaboration* position paper was to document the Aerospace and Defense PLM Action Group's (AD PAG's) collective vision for a common mechanism to support Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/supply chain product development collaboration.

Previously, Edition 1 (Release 1.0) detailed the existing As-Is mechanisms for collaboration and the negative business impacts that resulted. As stated earlier, that information was incorporated into Edition 2/2.1 (Release 2.0/2.1), which was then expanded to describe the mutually agreed upon future To-Be (i.e., Desired State) mechanism for collaboration. This Edition 3 (Release 3.0) builds on to the previous editions and lists the requirements for establishing the proposed To-Be collaboration environment.

In addition to publishing this position paper, the AD PAG provided a methodology—*Collaboration Management System (CMS) Description*—that addresses how OEM and supplier collaborations can be managed. It includes guidelines for a data integration/exchange setup, process, and practice protocols consistent with industry standards that all participants in product development collaboration should follow based on the proposed To-Be collaboration environment.

The methodology details the mechanics of configuring and integrating a supplier in an ideal/optimal/desired state. The intent is that this methodology will assist participants in setting up and executing collaboration contracts with their suppliers in a consistent manner. The methodology will be delivered to users as a process app (the link is provided in the Edition 3).

Introduction

In March 2016, executives from the Aerospace and Defense AD PAG member companies met with the intent that informal discussions would lead to consensus on priorities and plans for remediation of their common PLM pain points. These discussions resulted in the agreement of the members to jointly sponsor and staff a select set of projects, each chartered to define objectives, requirements, and roadmaps for eliminating or significantly reducing a key inhibitor to the value potential of PLM.

The topic addressed by this special project, which was initiated in 2017, is PLM Global Collaboration, a pain point of friction, complexity, and/or instability that erodes the productivity and quality of product information flow through A&D system programs and inflates the cost of system sustainability.

The overall scope of the PLM Global Collaboration project is to provide guidelines for a data integration/exchange setup and process and practice protocols consistent with industry standards. This document and other material published by the AD PAG Global Collaboration team (also referred to as a *workgroup*), details the mechanics of configuring and integrating a supplier in an ideal/optimal/desired state. The intent is that this position paper will aid OEMs in setting up contracts with their suppliers.

The team, now completing Phase 3 of the Global Collaboration project, has been focused on describing the As-Is state of collaboration, their vision of a To-Be future state, and the requirements for reaching that goal. Over time, this “working” position paper has been developed in three editions (or releases).

- The scope of Edition 1 (Release 1.0), published in July 2019, focused on the current As-Is state of the data flow process during initial design, detailed design, configuration control, and change management. Those areas within the overall product development process were identified as offering the greatest potential for improvement in earlier stages of the Global Collaboration project and were described in the project’s first position paper release.
- Edition 2 (Releases 2.0/2.1) of this paper developed objectives, a description of the desired To-Be state, and expected business impacts.
- After additional research, the team is now publishing Edition 3 (Release 3.0) to offer specific recommendations and a set of requirements for a future approach to global collaboration.

Terms and Definitions

Commonly used terms and their definitions are included in the following table. This information is extracted from the *AD PAG Glossary*, available at www.ad-pag.com.

Table 1 – Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Asynchronous Collaboration	A work methodology which allows a team to work serially on something such as an approval, where the data being worked on is sent from one person to the next until the process is complete.
Collaboration	A work methodology which allows for the management, sharing, and processing of files, documents, and other types of data, among several users and systems, anytime and anywhere in real time. Including the exchange of ideas/knowledge and interaction among several project stakeholders for product introduction where design engineering, manufacturing engineering, and other functions are integrated to enable the product lifecycle. The two main types of collaboration are asynchronous and synchronous.
Collaboration Foundations and Controls	Details the necessary foundations for collaboration with multiple partners or suppliers on projects.
Collaborative Communities	Consists of two or more people from different groups, or companies working jointly on a project.
Collaborative Workspace	Location where data is stored, processed, exchanged, and managed facilitating interoperability between project stakeholders
Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE)	The use of computer-based tools to assist in analyzing one or more aspects of a product design, such as structural and mechanism analysis. Related term: Simulation & Analysis.
Digital Thread	The digital thread refers to the communication framework that allows a connected data flow and integrated view of an asset's data (i.e., its digital twin) throughout its lifecycle across traditionally siloed functional perspectives.
Extended Enterprise	An enterprise that logically includes a network of contractors, suppliers, business partners, and customers involved in creating, defining, producing, operating, or supporting a common product. A supply chain is considered part of an extended enterprise.
Interoperability	The ability of two or more systems or components to exchange information and to use the information that has been exchanged. For example, interoperable tools have access to and use the original data, not translated data or copies of the data.
Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)	A strategic business approach that applies a consistent set of business solutions in support of the collaborative creation, management, dissemination, and use of product definition information across the extended enterprise and spanning from product concept to end of life—integrating people, processes, business systems, and information

Term	Definition
Standard Numbering System (SNS)	The Standard Numbering System (SNS) is essentially your product's breakdown structure with specific numbering convention. These numbers are allocated to each part of the breakdown/tree structure. Digital Artifact Index implemented at design engineering
Synchronous Collaboration	A secure digital work methodology which allows a team to work simultaneously on a process, seeing each other's data and comments, allowing the team to reach a consensus quickly.
Technical Data Packages (TDPs)	Any collection of information as defined by the recipient requirement obligations. The collected technical data is gathered at a specific lifecycle stage. The technical data package will describe the contents in an organized way. This information may include but is not limited to (engineering data, purchasing data, manufacturing data, certification data, test data, service data, etc.). Some examples of these types of data are design definition, test reports, administrative agreements, installation instructions, component maintenance manuals, etc.

Collaboration Standards

The following table provides the appropriate standards version to be used to support collaboration.

Table 2 – Collaboration Standards

Standard	Publication Year	Title
ISO 11354	2011	<i>Advanced automation technologies and their applications — Requirements for establishing manufacturing enterprise process interoperability</i>
ISO 11354-2	2015	<i>Advanced automation technologies and their applications — Requirements for establishing manufacturing enterprise process interoperability — Maturity model for assessing enterprise interoperability</i>
ISO TR44000	2019	<i>Principles for successful collaborative business relationship management</i>
ISO 44001	2017	<i>Collaborative business relationship management systems — Requirements and framework</i>
ISO 44002	2019	<i>Collaborative business relationship management systems — Guidelines on the implementation of ISO 44001</i>
ISO 44003	2021	<i>Collaborative business relationship management — Guidelines for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises on the implementation of the fundamental principles</i>
ISO 44004	2021	<i>Collaborative business relationship management — Guidelines for large organizations seeking collaboration with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)</i>
Mil Std 31000	Rev – 2009 Rev A – 2013 Rev B – 2018	Provides requirements for the deliverable data products associated with a TDP and its related TDP data
ISO 27000	2018	Information technology — Security techniques — Information security management systems — Overview and vocabulary

Associated AD PAG Sub-Teams and Publications

Table 3 – AD PAG Sub-Teams and Publications

Sub-Team's Name	Publications Link
Digital Twin Digital Thread	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/digtaltwin-digitalthread
Global Collaboration	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/global-collaboration
Model-Based Definition and BOM Definition	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/mbd-bom
Model-Based System Engineering	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/mbd-bom
Multi-View Bill of Materials	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/mv-bom
PLM Technology/Obsolescence Management	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/obsolescence-management
Standards	https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/standards

1. Edition 1: Problem Statement

This section of the position paper identifies, through current state use cases, the common roadblocks that limit simple, rapid, and reliable OEM PLM to design partner PLM data exchange for Digital Mock-Up (DMU) in the A&D industry today. Each use case is presented in a table format that includes the use case name, description, actors involved (by general title), challenges, and preconditions/prerequisites.

1.1. Context

The exchange of Product Data Management (PDM) to PDM Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Bill of Materials (BOM) data within the A&D industry among airframers, engine manufacturers, and other partner companies can best be described as tedious. Each company has different PLM software systems, versions, customizations, and different CAD software systems and versions. Exchanging data between any two companies requires bi-directional agreements of exchange—how to handle errors and expansion of the exchange process, as well as how to protect Intellectual Property (IP) data.

No single standard for either CAD or PLM data exchange exists. Each company has its own exchange requirements; therefore, exchanging data requires independent and exclusive processes, each unique and complicated, to support the long-term future of collaboration. Consequently, each company is required to agree on a CAD and PLM proprietary data format or a neutral format, naming and revision schemes, configuration control, and how to provide data synchronization between the two companies. This leads to lost time and delayed deliverables as each company works to establish the basis for an exchange.

The development and availability of exchange standards to which all software vendors and companies would adhere would greatly facilitate and optimize the evolution of the future collaboration process.

1.2. Use Cases (As-Is)

The initial phase of the Global Collaboration project was limited to the process of data flow during initial design, detailed design, configuration control, and change management of data. The concepts behind the use cases have been conceived and arranged to form a collaborative process environment in which the tasks of the work, such as work content (contracts), design, and review, are undertaken within the controls of configuration and change management and supported by the DMU (Model-Based) which are serviced by a data exchange activity (illustrated in the following figure). These use cases and associated data types represented serve as examples and demonstrate the issue where OEMs and suppliers are working on disparate and disconnected systems.

The following current state use cases (i.e., As-Is scenarios) are intrinsically linked and interact with each other, utilizing a common set of data.

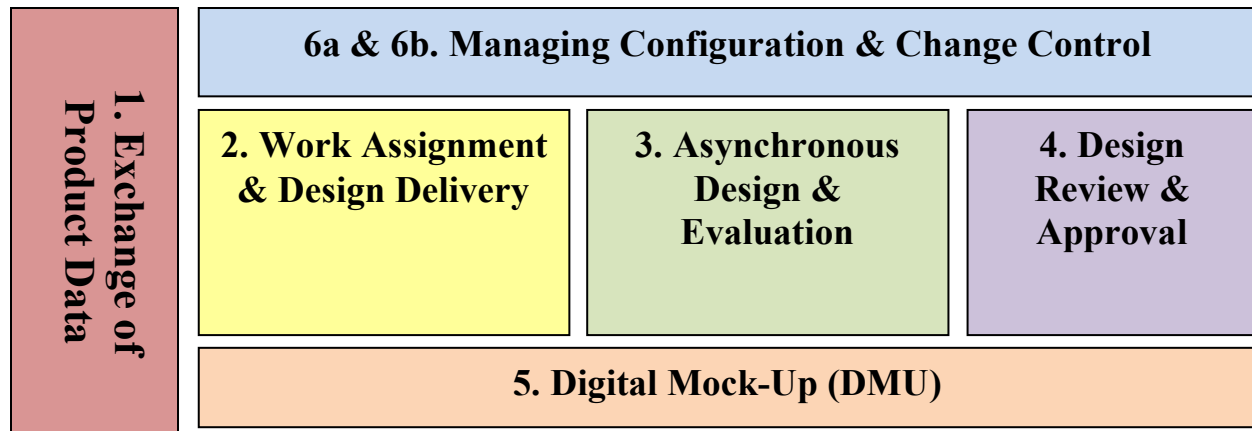


Figure 3 – As-Is Use Cases

Exchange of Product Data is the activity to Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL); that is, first extract data from the source system, if needed convert the data to the target system, and at the end integrate the data into the target system. Such data exchange could be done for different types of data (e.g., CM, CAD, DMU, etc.) and during different phases of the product lifecycle. Normally, the source and target are at different locations, and a TDP is used to transfer the data. Data exchange is always an asynchronous process. The several steps should be controlled and, mainly in case of conversion, validation should be done.

Work Assignment and Design Delivery encompasses the information and data required to do the following:

- Enable the definition of the work content, timescales, and costs for the product deliverables
- Set up the exchange, control, and change mechanisms that enable the work to be undertaken

Asynchronous Design and Evaluation involves providing the data and information (i.e., engineering methods, requirements, and rules) to enable a fully engineered solution for a product, which has evaluated and validated as fit for purpose against a set of requirements.

Design Review ensures that the proposed product solution satisfies the agreed upon requirements, customer expectations, and specifications with due regard to an optimized design, considering safety, performance, cost, reliability, maintenance, and ease of manufacture.

Approval is the formal acceptance by the Technical Authorities/Experts that the engineering solution has met all requirements. The collaboration between OEMs and suppliers provides enough information and data to successfully conduct a specific review.

Digital Mock-Up (DMU) is a 3D representation of a precise, complete assembly and interfacing hardware, including partner/customer parts, tooling, instrumentation, keep-out zones, and other modeling that can be visualized using 3D CAD software or integrated into a target PLM system. The DMU consists of geometrical representations of the product, resources, or production

environment (preferably lightweight 3D data) to enable integration into a target PLM system. Usually, this implies conversion activities for 3D and structural data.

Managing Configuration and Change Control is essential to ensure that all information used by both OEMs and suppliers is understood in terms of its completeness, standard, status, revision, and relevance for the product. This can be considered in two parts: first, the rules to control the product data and its standing as part of the product (e.g., naming, effectivity, etc.) and second, the control of the data packages transferred between parties, such as the data standard and its status.

The seven specific As-Is Use Cases addressed in this section are as follows:

1. Exchange of Product Data
2. Work Assignment and Design Delivery
3. Asynchronous Design and Evaluation
4. Design Review and Approval
5. Digital Mock-Up
- 6a. Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Product Data
- 6b. Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Data Package

For easy reference, each use case begins on a separate page.

Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data

The current method/activity for sending or receiving engineering information is via the Data Exchange process.

Table 4 – Use Case 1

1. Exchange of Product Data (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Exchange of Product Data
Description	<p>Manage the request of export of all data from an OEM to a supplier:</p> <p>A data exchange request triggers the export of CAD data from the PDM system to suppliers. After the request is analyzed, the data is extracted from the PDM vault or from the folder to a local file system.</p> <p>Afterwards, a packaging process is performed. The resulting TDP is delivered to the supplier in an acceptable format on the agreed-upon exchange medium, which could be a server or storage medium. A notification email is sent to confirm the sent information.</p> <p>This process may be executed manually or with full or partial automation.</p> <p>Request to send from user Data extraction Data conversion (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CAD conversion formats (or neutral) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2D ▪ 3D – Product Manufacturing Information (PMI), including Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing (GD&T), notations, and views – Attribute data – Documents <p>Quality check Package data Notify and send to receiver</p> <p>Request the import of all data from a supplier to an OEM:</p> <p>The On Request import of CAD and PDM data from another supplier into the PDM system is a manual process. The exchange is triggered by a data exchange request for the sender. The sender delivers an On-Demand TDP, which is integrated into the PDM system. A CAD conversion is done for non-convenient native formats, and a product structure conversion is done from supplier to PDM. A data quality check secures the import of valid CAD</p>

1. Exchange of Product Data (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Exchange of Product Data
	<p>models. To ensure the correct geometry after conversion, it is a requirement to manually check for any errors.</p> <p>Request from OEM/supplier</p> <p>Notification and receipt of package from sender</p> <p>Data extraction</p> <p>Data conversion (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CAD conversion formats (or neutral) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2D ▪ 3D - PMI, including GD&T, notations, and views - Attribute data - Documents <p>Quality check</p> <p>Data integration into PDM</p> <p>Notification to receiving user</p>
Actors	Designer(s) and Data Exchange Expert(s)
Challenges	<p>Bi-directional agreement</p> <p>Asynchronous exchange</p> <p>Data conversion errors</p> <p>Data size and growth</p> <p>IP (Intellectual Property) data protection</p> <p>Connectivity optimization</p> <p>Leveraging best practices</p> <p>(See descriptions below.)</p>
Preconditions/ Prerequisites	<p>Data types</p> <p>Connectivity</p> <p>Exchange frequency</p> <p>Data selection</p> <p>Data formats</p> <p>Conversion validation</p> <p>Additional principles, including program and leadership support</p> <p>(See descriptions below.)</p>

Challenges Detail

- **Bi-directional agreement.** When suppliers work for multiple OEMs, this leads quickly to separate and independent systems installations and customization. The same data is exchanged multiple times due to several receivers or different formats. This translates into high costs for maintenance and support.
- **Asynchronous exchange.** As for data exchange, a package is generated, and the receiver is using this data asynchronously. On the sender side, development is still ongoing, and this presents a high risk that data within the TDP is very quickly out-of-date.
- **Data conversion errors.** Data conversion is not error-free. How to guarantee consistent and complete data is a continuous challenge. Each conversion needs to be validated with appropriate mechanisms, such as geometrical comparison of volume, surface, and center of gravity.
- **Data size growth.** Due to the evolution of CAD systems and the content managed within 3D data, data size is growing with each CAD release and year by year.
- **IP data protection.** In most cases, only neutral data is exchanged, but as mentioned earlier, each conversion could introduce errors and create negative impacts, such as in geometrical differences or in assembly positioning. For several use cases, native/proprietary data may be requested for update and may not contain protection of IP. In addition, the exchanged data could be simplified by removing all inner geometry and exchanging only the outer shape (shrink wrap).
- **Connectivity optimization.** The limitations of current connectivity technology affect the speed and timeliness of data availability. Typically, the two parties agree on the availability, and the data exchange is synchronized at the minimum standard, phased-dependent supplier integration level. This integration level is determined by the IT infrastructure supporting each participant. When a supplier is working for multiple OEMs, many connections of varying complexities are required and should be simplified and optimized as much as possible.
- **Leveraging best practices.** All data exchanges should take advantage of the industry best practices and standards used for collaborating between the sending and receiving parties. Exchanging parties should avoid creating new pathways by researching existing methods and coordinating with IT to manage the exchange.

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Before data exchange is launched, a bi-directional agreement between both partners—sender and receiver—needs to be defined and include answers to the following:

- **Data types.** The type of data that needs to be exchanged must be determined and agreed upon (e.g., CAD, visualization, 3D or 2D, metadata, etc.). Also, the development phase in which the data exchange is requested should be clarified (e.g., preliminary design, detailed design, in-service, etc.). Different types of DMU data may be exchanged as preliminary design data, type design data, etc. Still, the data should be marked to indicate the data's lifecycle stage for better usage. This also makes it easier for the receiver to differentiate between read-only and modifiable data. In an ideal case, the modifiable data is locked in the sender system to avoid a parallel way of working. To

enable better security, data should be classified in the system. However, special treatment may be required for export-sensitive data. The DMU is a representation of a specific deliverable that contains accurate interfaces and defines the space (volume) of the product. The DMU product structure is not equivalent to the BOM. The BOM defines all the components of the physical product delivered to the end customer.

- **Connectivity.** The levels of collaboration are based on the connectivity between parties, must be agreed upon in the contract, and are determined by the volume, type, and nature of the data exchange necessary to undertake the activity. Depending on the connection needs and IT systems used by the collaborating companies, the exchange is currently operated via three methods: (S)FTP Transfer, Remote Access to OEM Environment/Host, or Local Access to OEM Environment/Host. All data exchanged should be completed using the latest, approved IT security protocols.
- **Exchange frequency.** The frequency of exchange must be defined, such as:
 - Once–one-time full extract
 - On a regular basis (frequency) and if regular—full or delta/incremental data (i.e., only data changed since the last extraction)
 - Event-triggered, such as by a release process; for example, during the release process, an export is launched to deliver the dataset (e.g., build-to-print supplier)
- **Data selection (e.g., subscription list, assembly tree walk, zoning and boxing).** The data needing to be exchanged should be defined by part ID or assembly node or by a bounding box or geometrical.
- **Data formats.** Examples include proprietary CAD data (native CAD data), derived visualization data, and a converted neutral standard format (i.e., STEP, JT, IGES, DXF, etc.). In addition to conversion to a neutral data format, the data content should be protected by a mechanism that prevents the exchange of a complete product break down, allowing only an envelope or shrink-wrap and no inside geometry.
- **Conversion validation.** In the case of data conversion, all relevant model data needs to be validated for completeness and accuracy. A good example is the use of Geometric Validation Properties (GVP): before the conversion, calculate some values like volume and center of gravity, and then after conversion, recalculate the same values and compare the deviations. The allowable tolerance must be defined in the data exchange agreement.
- **Additional principles.** Two main principles that lead to data exchange can be distinguished—direct access (synchronous) and asynchronous. Asynchronous transfer currently offers two options: Push and Pull mode and whether a full send or a trickier incremental or delta exchange for the data exchange occurs each time. Due to security concerns, the infrastructure for such exchange or access should be in a so-called *demilitarized zone (DMZ)* to better control internal and external access, etc. Instead of the DMZ, the infrastructure could be in a private and secure cloud. In addition, the TDPs could be encrypted to ensure better control of data access.

Use Case 2: Work Assignment and Design Delivery

This use case addresses the information and data required to define the work content, timescales, and costs for the product deliverables and set up the exchange, control, and change mechanisms that allow the work to be undertaken.

Table 5 – Use Case 2

2. Data Exchange of Program and Project Data (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Work Assignment and Design Delivery
Description	Set up the work activity between the OEM and the supplier Definition of the work activity (Statement of Work) Contract definition and agreement Bi-directional information transfer route definition—ability to log and record dates and versions/revisions Monitor and manage the problems and issues
Actors	Program Manager(s), Engineering, and Procurement
Challenges	Agree to the work content, information transfer mechanisms, and process for solving issues and escalations.
Preconditions/ Prerequisites	Additional principles, including program and leadership support Contractual agreements are in place, IT agreements

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

Use Case 3: Asynchronous Design and Evaluation

As noted previously, Asynchronous Design and Evaluation involves providing the data and information (i.e., engineering methods, requirements, and rules) to enable a fully engineered solution for a product, which has been evaluated and validated as fit for purpose against a set of requirements.

Table 6 – Use Case 3

3. Asynchronous Design and Evaluation (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Asynchronous Design and Evaluation
Description	The design activity is undertaken in separate locations using the latest requirements and data available at the time of the activity. The design consists of 3D modeling and 2D drawings to describe the product solution, providing the Form, Fit, and Function (FFF), including the materials and manufacturing processes and treatments. Discussion and decision-making are done remotely using email, WebEx, and/or telephony.
Actors	Designer(s) and Manufacturing Engineer(s)
Challenges	Ensure that the most current data is available and consistent across sites/companies. Have all actors available at the same time.
Preconditions/ Prerequisites	Additional principles, including program and leadership support Need contracts and people in place and data available

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

Use Case 4: Design Review and Approval

As stated earlier, Design Review and Approval ensures that the proposed product solution satisfies the agreed-upon requirements, customer expectations, and specifications regarding an optimized design that considers safety, performance, cost, reliability, maintenance, and ease of manufacture. Collaboration between OEMs and suppliers provides enough information and data to conduct any specific review successfully. Approval is the formal acceptance by the Technical Authorities/Experts that the engineering solution has met all the requirements.

Table 7 – Use Case 4

4. Design Review and Approval (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Design Review and Approval
Description	<p>This process is the formal review and approval of the product solution, using the technical data (e.g., drawings, documents, test plans, etc.) to allow in-depth review of requirements and evaluation of the design solution with validation and sign-off.</p> <p>Data is provided to support the delivery of the product, and the product delivery is scheduled in support of program milestones.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p>Define schedule meetings with engineering, supplier management, and the supplier to determine what data requirements need to be submitted for review and the appropriate schedules for each.</p> <p>Receive data..... ensure correct information at the correct standard and for the correct requirement–Configuration and Change Management.</p> <p>Conduct review review requirements, visualization of the DMU, and markup.</p> <p>Record the review..... capture discussion, results, and scope.</p> <p>Approval workflow obtain appropriate signatures. If the data is unacceptable, the supplier will make the necessary updates and provide the next revision for review.</p> <p>Publish results provide the approved data to downstream users, such as Quality, Manufacturing, and/or authority systems.</p> <p>Engineering reviews and provides their evaluation back to the supplier.</p> <p>Supplier Management acts as the mediator between the supplier and engineering and monitors any changes to the scope.</p>

4. Design Review and Approval (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	Design Review and Approval
	Any changes to the FFF of the deliverable (i.e., part) must be provided for re-evaluation. (Refer to <i>Use Cases 6a and 6b: Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Product Data.</i>)
Actors	Engineering, Supplier Management, Manufacturing, and Quality
Challenges	Export regulations (International Trade Compliance) IP protection Data size Data recipient or sender limitations (See descriptions below, and also refer to <i>Use Case 2: Work Assignment and Design Delivery.</i>)
Preconditions/ Prerequisites	Data requirements must be determined before contracting with the supplier to finalize what design data is needed and to schedule when each data requirement is due.

Challenges Detail

- **Export regulations (International Trade Compliance).** Issues may arise if the user does not know what Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) or United States Munitions List (USML) codes to associate with the data, increasing the chances of mismarking the data design.
- **IP protection.** Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* challenges for a description.
- **Data size.** If the transmitted files are too large, this can cause system time-outs and possible delays in the review process and downstream processes.
- **Data recipient or sender limitations.** Some companies may not have the bandwidth to submit larger files and must depend on an alternate route for submitting the data.

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

Use Case 5: Digital Mock-Up

Digital Mock-Up is a 3D representation of a precise, complete assembly and interfacing hardware, including partner/customer parts, tooling, instrumentation, keep out zones, and other modeling that can be visualized using 3D CAD software or integrated into a target PLM system.

Table 8 – Use Case 5

5. Digital Mock-Up (As-Is)	
Use Case Name	DMU Data Exchange
Description	<p>DMU data exchange provides a file-based, geometrical representation of the product, resources, or production environment (preferably lightweight 3D data) to enable integration into a target PLM system. Usually, this implies conversion activities for 3D and structural data.</p> <p>The frequency of data exchange depends on the need for utilization and ranges from on-off to hourly depending on program requirements or contracts. Recurring updates may contain incremental data only. Typical purposes are the support at any design level in context or technical release and the validation and optimization of prototyping.</p>
Actors	DMU Integrator(s), Design Owner(s) and Author(s)
Challenges	<p>Size of the data</p> <p>Fail-safe 3D conversion</p> <p>CAD conversions/neutral data format</p> <p>Non-standard data exchange</p> <p>Synchronization process between collaborators</p> <p>BOM formatting (neutral BOM format)</p> <p>Cross-organizational boundaries and design team integration</p> <p>(See descriptions below.)</p>
Preconditions/ Prerequisites	DMU protocol/data exchange agreement

Challenges Detail

- Size of the data.** During New Product Introduction (NPI) programs, the DMU data exchange between the engine manufacturer and the airframer OEM is challenged by a very extensive volume of data. Usually, all the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 25 (FAR25) type design data (i.e., Pylon, Nacelle, EBU) plus FAR33 engine interface geometry (i.e., LRU maintenance) must be made available in both directions to ensure proper design within the context. An estimated

30GB average of DMU data volume per year per program driven by approximately 30,000 native CAD files.

- **Fail-safe 3D conversion.** How 3D data is exchanged needs to be standardized. Currently, one AD PAG member company must deliver many different formats (i.e., everything from CATIA V4 to CATIA V5R28 to JT). Another works in Siemens' NX. Consequently, all incoming and outgoing data is converted back and forth, introducing the potential for errors and definitely slowing down processes.
- **CAD conversions/neutral data format.** For CAD conversion, quality control should be implemented. Calculate GVP before conversion, conduct a re-run after conversion, and compare (e.g., volume, surface areas, center of gravity, etc.). Instead of performing a direct conversion from CAD format A to B, a neutral data format like STEP, JT, etc., could reduce the effort. However, in most cases, an OEM wants to receive native CAD formats that fulfill the company's quality and methods, such as naming and numbering, layering, colors, etc. Compared to native CAD, a neutral format already includes some IP protection. Typically, history and design content cannot be retrieved (i.e., only "dump" and dead solids are exchanged, no features).
- **Non-standard data exchange.** Sometimes data that is not part of an engine/airframe is exchanged between engineers at collaborator companies, either because the data is not complete, is 2D and not 3D, or for other reasons. If the data is just emailed or stored and forwarded back and forth, there is nothing in place for version control, leading to potential confusion, misunderstandings, and wasted time and resources.
- **Synchronization process between collaborators.** It is difficult to synchronize what files are with which collaborator. For example, a company has been exchanging data for years, and then one day an engineer references a model that hasn't been used in some time. How does the company know if the *other* company already has that model or if the model needs to be converted and sent? For one AD PAG member company, it is common for each engine/airframer exchange to have a different convoluted synchronization process, usually involving CSV (Comma Separated Variables) files.
- **BOM formatting (neutral BOM format).** A neutral format for the BOM/parts list data exchange is unavailable. Each PLM vendor has its own "flavor" of PLM XML and STEP 242.
- **Cross-organizational boundaries and design team integration.** These organizational boundaries often inhibit concurrent engineering and data exchange and should be addressed using an integrated product team (IPT) approach to assure comprehensive data exchange. The IPT is a multi-disciplined team assigned with responsibility for a specific program, product, or subsystem that functions to resolve any potential issues and produces an integrated and validated product.

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

Use Case 6a: Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Product Data

Controlling and managing changes to the information shared between OEMs and their suppliers are essential to ensure that engineered solutions conform to the design requirements and that the standards/versions of the data being used are understood and reliable. Ensuring the traceability and pedigree of the master design definition is critical. Ensuring data pedigree ensures the health of a DMU and the engineering decisions made based on the DMU. Mechanisms must be in place to ensure the data integrity of the DMU. A lack of trust in the data can be very expensive for a business.

All product data changes by the OEM or supplier must be fully coordinated and authorized. Change agreements between business entities should be in place to support all change activities. Information exchange between OEMs and their suppliers must be managed and controlled precisely and falls into the following two categories:

- Control of the product data inside the TDP (this Use Case 6a)
- Control of the TDP itself (Use Case 6b)

Table 9 – Use Case 6a

6a. Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Product Data (As-Is)															
Use Case Name	Control of the product data inside the TDP														
Description	<p>The configuration of the technical data inside any data exchange system is critical to the engineering or manufacturing process and is governed by means of the modification system and the collaboration process/system or tools operated by the OEMs and their suppliers.</p> <p>Typical attributes used to manage the data inside a data exchange package are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Attribute</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Model Number</td> <td>Part or Assembly 3D model</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drawing Number</td> <td>Drawing Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sheet Number</td> <td>Sheet number(s) for the drawing to ensure sheet control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part Number</td> <td>Unique identifier of a part number</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revision/Issue/Version</td> <td>Revision/Issue/Version of the part and/or drawing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Description</td> <td>Description of the part (in English)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Attribute	Description	Model Number	Part or Assembly 3D model	Drawing Number	Drawing Number	Sheet Number	Sheet number(s) for the drawing to ensure sheet control	Part Number	Unique identifier of a part number	Revision/Issue/Version	Revision/Issue/Version of the part and/or drawing	Description	Description of the part (in English)
Attribute	Description														
Model Number	Part or Assembly 3D model														
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Revision/Issue/Version	Revision/Issue/Version of the part and/or drawing														
Description	Description of the part (in English)														

6a. Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Product Data (As-Is)		
Use Case Name	Control of the product data inside the TDP	
	Modification/Change Number	Modification or change process control
	Change Description	Full description of changes for new version of the part
	Product Effectivity	Product for which the part is effective
	Author	Designer responsible for the design
	Date	Stored date of data/part
	Maturity	Design maturity identified
	Export/IP Classification	Register regulatory export classification (i.e., 9E991) IP protections
Actors	Designer(s), Design Owner(s), and Configuration Engineer(s)	
Challenges	<p>Sending/receiving systems must be aligned and validated to confirm the intent of the attribute exchange is synchronized.</p> <p>Data must remain in version control for multi-party exchanges and storage.</p>	
Preconditions/Prerequisites	<p>Data exchange agreement</p> <p>Categorization and classification of data within the system, considering the extraction process. For example, EAR, ITAR data, etc. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Traffic_in_Arms_Regulations. Another example is IP protection for suppliers' and customers' data.</p>	

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

Use Case 6b: Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Data Package

As indicated above, information exchange between OEMs and their suppliers must be managed and controlled precisely. This section presents a description and the many challenges of the second category of control—**controlling the TDP**.

Table 10 – Use Case 6b

6b. Managing Configuration and Change Control of the Data Package (As-Is)		
Use Case Name	Control of the TDP	
Description	Configuration control of the TDP is critical to ensure that the most recent information is always used by the engineering teams. This control is governed through the collaboration process/system or tools used to maintain the configuration control of the data across OEMs and their suppliers.	
	Typical attributes used to manage data required for a data exchange package are as follows:	
	Attribute	Description
	File Name	Package name in the form defined by the naming convention - without split counter and extension
	Time Stamp	Package creation date and time
	Operating System	Windows, UNIX, etc.
	CAD system	Format (including its version) of delivered data files
	Description	Description of the data in the data exchange package
	Position Matrix	Relative position to the next higher assembly
	Revision indicator	Revision letter/number assigned to denote the package revision level
Revision description	Reason for change and description of change (in English)	
Actors	Designer(s), Design Owner(s) and Configuration Engineer(s)	
Challenges	Alignment and synchronization of attributes in sending/receiving systems	
Preconditions/Prerequisites	Data exchange agreement	

Preconditions/Prerequisites Detail

Refer to *Use Case 1: Exchange of Product Data* for a description of the preconditions and prerequisites (e.g., data types, exchange frequency, data selection, etc.) common to this use case.

1.3. Business Consequences

Exchanging CAD and BOM data between businesses is a complex topic. As discussed above, each business may have its own PLM software, CAD software, and different versions and customizations. Data exchange requires agreements about the CAD and BOM type and format to be in place.

Failing to resolve complexities that lead to a slowdown in data exchange of product, program, project, and design data prevents partner companies from effectively communicating about projects. If peer engineers at each company are unable to see the location or design of parts in place for each other's design, they are unable to perform their job correctly to account for positioning of other parts within the BOM.

Productivity decreases as the amount of time between synchronization increases. The longer each company's CAD and BOM definitions are not synchronized and drift apart, the lower the effectiveness of communication between engineers at each site. Furthermore, change management of product data and package data is impacted by the same data update drift, allowing engineers to communicate effectively only during time periods directly after data synchronization.

Finally, the business priority and resource requirements to support the items addressed in this paper must be understood and supported by leadership at OEMs and suppliers. Too often, these needs are not recognized and appreciated for their criticality to the business and the long-term success of a program. The needs must be sufficiently funded and supported over the lifetime of a program to avoid "hidden costs" to the business.

1.4. Causal Analysis

The AD PAG project team analyzed the seven use cases and pinpointed five primary categories of causal factors that contribute to the negative business consequences described above, i.e., the widespread complexities of CAD and BOM data exchange between an OEM and development partners, the potential breakdown of communication on projects, and the likely data update drift (less frequent CAD and BOM synchronization).

The AD PAG team identified Exchange, Conversion Validations, Reconversion Validations, Framework, and Governance as the five root cause categories leading to added complexity, potential confusion, and reduced productivity. The primary stumbling blocks in each category are described below.

1.4.1. Exchange

- As for data exchange, a package is generated, and the receiver is using this data *asynchronously*. On the sender side, development is ongoing, and this presents a high risk that data within the TDP is very quickly out-of-date.
- Non-standard data that is not part of an engine/airframe is exchanged between collaborator companies, either because the data is in work or because it is incomplete. If the data is just emailed or stored and exchanged back and forth. In that case, nothing is in place to manage revisions or version control, leading to potential confusion and misunderstandings, resulting in wasted time and resources.
- It is difficult to manage or synchronize what files are with various collaborators. For example, how the company that has been exchanging data for many years knows if the model is still current or if it needs to be converted and re-sent is a problem. It is common for each engine/airframer exchange to have a different, convoluted synchronization process that is usually negotiated between collaborators.

1.4.2. Conversion Validations

- Single or multiple data conversion is not 100% error-free. Processes to guarantee consistent and complete data are a continuous challenge. Each conversion needs to be validated with appropriate mechanisms, such as geometrical comparison of volume, surface, metadata, and mass properties.
- The conversion process and methods for data exchange need to be standardized. A collaborator may be required to deliver many different formats (i.e., everything from CATIA V4 up to CATIA V5R28).
- Data conversions using neutral ISO standard data formats need to be developed to meet current collaboration and future regulatory requirements.
- Processes, methods, and tools need to be deployed to mitigate risk of any data loss independent of the number of data conversions.

1.4.3. Reconversion Validations

- Reconversion requires additional confirmation to assure that no data loss or corruption occurs to validate the integrity of the model.
- It is a best practice to avoid multiple conversions so that the original data remains the “source of the truth.”

1.4.4. Framework

- The primary challenge of the data exchange process is to reach bi-directional agreement about the work content, the information transfer mechanisms, and the process for solving issues and escalations.
- Due to the evolution of CAD/PLM systems, CAD data and metadata size is growing with each tool’s release.
- The volume of product data increases during the lifetime of the program.

- Ensuring that the most up-to-date data is available and consistent across sites/companies is critical.
- All actors must be available at the same time.
- Suppliers working for multiple OEMs experience many separate and/or interdependent systems installations or customizations, which lead to multiple connectivity instances and consequential challenges. The same data is available at multiple locations and/or converted due to several receivers and/or in different formats. This translates into high costs for process management, maintenance, and support.
- The data exchange agreement needs to include the alignment of common attributes in supplier systems.

1.4.5. Governance

- Potential export regulations issues may arise if the user does not know what export classification to associate with the data.
- An IP data protection process must be negotiated and enforced between collaborative parties.

2. Edition 2: Desired State (To-Be)

The previous use cases were related to the current As-Is state of collaboration, highlighting the pain points felt by the member organizations. Those seven use cases were considered, along with present and future technology, in the development of an enhanced, desired (To-Be) collaboration framework. The focus of Edition 1 (Release 1.0) was engineering content; however, the end-to-end process between all stakeholders must be considered to understand collaboration to its fullest extent and define the desired state.

2.1. Collaboration Context

The original use cases and collaborative concepts listed in *Appendix A: Solution Concepts* were evaluated in the development of the desired collaboration framework. During initial brainstorming efforts, the team illustrated those concepts and issues as shown in the following “word cloud.”



Figure 4 – “Word Cloud”

The concepts of the key items resulting from the “word cloud” are the primary topics of the following sections of this paper.

2.1.1. Overview of the Desired Interaction of Business Entities

The desired state is a global collaboration process where **multiple partners collaborate in a common workspace** on projects (new product development, industrialization, or post-development), observing the following general aspects:

- One of the partners is the project leader, and the others are contributors.
- The lead partner sets the pace of the project reviews and the pace and content of the changes in design.
- Depending upon the lead partner’s program requirements, each contributor may design in their own supplier’s environment solution to have digital continuity from end-to-end in their own company or within the lead partner’s environment, utilizing the tools, processes, and methodology provided by the lead partner.
- Where applicable, partners keep their own IP and do not transmit the features of the 3D models (i.e., how they design).

- The lead partner makes the requirements (functional and geometrical) available in a format usable by the contributors (i.e., can be seen and used by the contributors).
- The contributors make their design and justification available in a format usable by the lead partner (i.e., can be used by the leader and integrated into the leader's own design).
- There may be many changes in design/iterations: the leaders who will change the requirements and the contributors who will change their own design at identical requirements. Each change may be documented, and documentation must be shared with the partner(s). Configuration synchronization is compulsory and is organized by configuration managers. The state of all data in the global configuration and variant management is easily visible and understandable.
- Virtual project reviews occur regularly (including DMU review).
- The leader may provide guidance and instructions to partners, and partners may acknowledge/report about their actions (e.g., via workflows).

The following sections provide greater detail about the desired state of global collaboration.

2.1.2. The Proposed To-Be Collaboration Environment

The AD PAG Global Collaboration team views the To-Be (desired state) collaborative environment as a synchronous collaboration solution that works in parallel with industry CAD and data interchange standards to ensure control and bi-directional communication/sharing. The solution should improve interoperability between collaboration communities while minimizing manual intervention. The collaborative solution should provide a non-proprietary data format to allow system-/solution-agnostic movement of data between organizations irrespective of the end point solutions used to create/maintain the data being collaborated.

2.2. Elements of Global Collaboration

The new, desired state is a global collaboration process where **multiple partners collaborate in communities**. These communities are a more open, collaborative, but secure environment.

The following illustration helps with understanding the elements of global collaboration, including the collaborative foundations and controls.



Figure 5 – Global Collaboration Elements

2.2.1. Foundations and Controls

Understanding the many communities actively participating in the product lifecycle is important. Two key aspects must be considered for a better long-term collaboration strategy solution between the PLM provider and the product development participants.

The first is to understand the entire ecosystem evolving around product lifecycle activities and how all participants, such as the following, work together:

- OEM business unit
- Suppliers (categorization of supplier contractual level)
- Authorities (regulatory)
- Co-development partners (university, research center)
- Enabling collaboration technologies

The second aspect involves indirectly capturing the interaction type to understand the role of each lifecycle phase. Then, it will be possible to link the phases to one or more of the pillars—**coordination**, **cooperation**, and **collaboration**. Ultimately, a collaborative strategy based primarily on the role of each of the following entities, for example, should prevail:

- Research and advanced design
- Product development engineering

- Final assembly line
- Marketing
- Manufacturing
- Tooling
- Procurement
- Quality
- Technical publications
- Methods
- Operations and services

By using the guidelines (framework) referred to in the *AD PAG Global Collaboration Team Guidelines* section, businesses can define the types and levels of engagement necessary to support the desired collaboration of the following:

- Classes of suppliers
- Data exchange levels
- Collaboration types
- Collaborative configuration and change control

Classes of Suppliers

A categorization of the collaborators is the set of criteria used to qualify the types of data exchange with the OEM. A classification for the collaborator is needed for the OEM to define methodology and tools for collaboration and integration, including exchange using industry standards and specifications. Collaborators can be categorized based on their business engagement, tools, and capabilities, which have been defined as three classes for this paper.

- **Class 1** – A supplier who manufactures products in accordance with OEM engineering data and specifications. The OEM data must be rich enough to be used efficiently by the supplier in their process engineering software. The IP contained in the data belongs to the OEM. An example is a Build to Print/Model Supplier.
- **Class 2** – A supplier that designs from OEM requirements, manufactures, assembles, and tests the product using their own engineering specifications and drawings. An example is an Equipment and System Supplier. The following deliverables are included if the supplier contracts with the OEM: 3D model/drawings of the assembled equipment, which can be easily integrated to the OEMs DMU, equipment performance data, and a spare parts BOM. The design IP belongs to the supplier. OEM product configuration and equipment configuration must be coordinated. Program reviews and DMU reviews must be performed in alignment with program milestones.
- **Class 3** – A supplier that designs and manufactures products in accordance with OEM engineering specifications. An example is a Design and Build Partner supplier where the supplier contract with OEM includes the following deliverables: relevant design elements (e.g., certification and/or to a change in design (modification)) that can be easily integrated into the OEM's DMU. For that, they are accountable for one or more delivery milestones. Both program and DMU reviews must be performed in alignment with program milestones. The supplier must

be involved in the change/modification workflows. According to contract, a Class 3 supplier may design in their own environment to have digital continuity from product engineering to process engineering or in OEM's environment. This class of supplier supports catalogue part integration, distribution & part definition data exchange to support part interoperability.

Data Exchange Levels

Levels of data exchange and their relative connectivity based on complexity and depth of collaboration are as follows:

- **Level 1** – One-way data exchange by file transfer protocol (FTP) and/or read-only access to the collaborative environment. When transferred, data must be rich enough to be efficiently used for the process engineering. Low volume of data exchange.
- **Level 2** – Data exchange: the exchanged data is usable in each party's environment. Data is exchanged in agreed-upon format and according to delivery milestones. Medium volume of data exchange.
- **Level 3** – Data in agreed-upon format is continuously exchanged to accelerate concurrent engineering. Even nonfrozen data may be exchanged. Medium or High volume of data exchange.

Collaboration Types

Collaboration types are used in conjunction with the supplier class definitions to help understand the level of contract definition to support the business relationship between the OEM and suppliers. There is no single combination supplier class to collaboration level relationship. Any combination of the relationships can be created to support the business need.

Table 11 – Collaboration Types and Data Exchange Levels

Collaboration	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Contents of Technical Data Package (examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3D/2D Geometry with tolerancing data and/or assembly Requirement (torque, gap, ...) - DMU: selected volume - BOM - Documents - Metadata - Export controls - Catalogue part definition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements - Functional diagrams (e.g., fluidic, or electric) - Supplier technical data - Quality data - In-service data - - 3D/2D geometry with tolerancing data and/or assembly requirements (torque, gap, etc.) - DMU: selected volume - BOM - Documents - Metadata - Export controls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architecture models, multi-physics models, simulation - Co-design, co-simulation - Partner design organization sharing, design collaboration - Requirements co-authoring - In context design collaboration - Functional diagrams (e.g., fluidic, or electric) - Assembly - Change/Modification documents - Supplier technical data - Quality data - In-service data - IP controls - 3D/2D geometry with tolerancing data and/or assembly requirements (torque, gap, etc.) - DMU: selected volume - BOM - Documents - Metadata - Export controls
Data Exchange Level	Level 1	Level 1 or 2	Level 2 or 3

Collaborative Configuration and Change Control

Collaborative Configuration and Change Control is a foundational topic. After the supplier class and collaboration level (i.e., data exchange level) have been determined, controls are needed to manage the data being exchanged. These collaborative controls include user accessibility and security, such as the following:

- Private/Proprietary: Sensitive data, OEM internal activities
- Public: Common documentation, best practices
- Project: Common project with suppliers, other OEMs, authorities, and co-development partners
- Region: Geo-location and nationality of participants

This collaboration around large collections of data must guarantee the following features:

- Provides security for access, control, traceability, and data
- Organizes data (configuration level, maturity level, options)

- Does not directly affect the data (release versions)
- Provides Change Management traceability
- Provides schedule alignment and visibility
- Provides synchronization with existing data owners (OEM)
- Provides software version data translation exchange constraints

2.2.2. Collaborative Platform Solutions

A collaborative platform solution is where two or more people from different groups, communities, or companies work jointly on a project. The main objective of the collaboration is to simplify exchanges, enable concurrent engineering, and increase overall efficiency. Several key elements are required for an effective collaborative platform solution. These elements can be quite complex and belong to sophisticated industrial processes. A high-level list includes the following aspects:

- Facilitates exchanges quickly to increase the speed and convergence of ideas and concepts being developed
- Strengthens the dynamic between the different “actors” for the different communities—whatever their origins—to interact together through a collaborative platform solution
- Groups all elements participating into an effective collaboration
- Updates/synchronizes and manages data
- Establishes links between the data
- Securely organizes communities using roles, groups, and organizations
- Manages timelines, the schedule, and milestones to stay well-aligned
- Provides secure interoperability for data

The global architecture of a collaborative platform solution must establish the rules (i.e., the processes) of concurrent engineering. Other topics needing consideration as indirect objectives of a collaborative platform solution to ensure fluid continuity between the different communities include proper alignment with legal obligation and respect of legal contract scope and operational objectives with strict honoring of the best practices. A collaboration solution should provide a non-proprietary data format to allow system- or solution-agnostic movement of data between organizations regardless of the end point solutions used to create or maintain the data being collaborated. **Contracts play a key part in ensuring that collaboration data format standards are agreed upon by all parties before entering any collaborative arrangement.**

Collaborative platform solutions are needed for product development and university projects where applications and services replace large platform solutions using a document repository, data transfer point-to-point, or cloud exchange technology. Platform solutions must offer support for collaboration and guarantee milestone alignment to reach the business targets in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

When considering the interoperability across these communities and platform solutions, it is important to recognize how data moves across the enterprise as described by the types of global collaboration.

For more information about interoperability, refer to ISO 11354-1 and ISO 11354-2. “ISO 11354 focuses on but is not restricted to enterprise (manufacturing or service) interoperability. It is intended for use by people who are concerned to assess capabilities for enterprise interoperability and identify areas where those might need to be improved to meet the needs and ambitions of the enterprise.”¹

2.2.3. Collaborative Workspace for Extended Enterprise

The collaborative workspace must be effective for the entire lifecycle of the product, beginning in the first phases and continuing until the end-of-life phase.

The following three major pillars—**coordination, cooperation, and collaboration**—should be considered to ensure effective collaboration between the participants, which can include the various OEM PLM players and the counterparts at the supplier’s side.

- **Coordination** is a process in which communities make a commitment to ensure that each one of them acts in a coherent way to ensure alignment with a common schedule and workflow.
- **Cooperation** refers to relationships between two or more organizations that aim to achieve a common deliverable or goal. Cooperation is the action of producing an element requiring several fields of expertise concurrently.
- **Collaboration**’s main objective is to share information in a controlled and safe environment between the different industrial ecosystem participants through a data-sharing mechanism. This aspect should also provide elements on the progress of a project or a program of activities, such as using a dashboard.

¹ ©ISO. This material is extracted from ISO 11354-2. All rights reserved.

Table 12 – Collaborative Workspace Pillars

Coordination	Cooperation	Collaboration
Project Management	Digital Mock-Up	Repository, Data Vault
Process	MBSE – Requirements, Functional, Logical, and Physical (RFLP)	Change Documents
Workflow	Concurrent Iterative Design	Engineering Documents
Schedule	Development Assurance	Supplier’s Portal
Engineering Review		Shared Workspace

Interoperability across all disciplines, including these three pillars, is essential to fully embrace digital thread deployment.

2.2.4. Collaborative Communities

A collaborative community is two or more people from different groups or companies working jointly on a project. As shown in the following figure, a collaborative community’s main objective is to efficiently design, manufacture, and support components throughout their lifecycle.

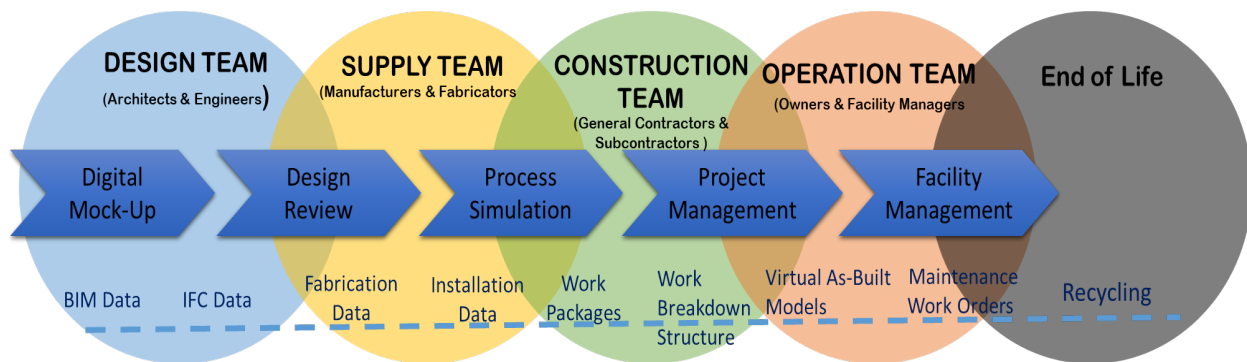


Figure 6 – Collaboration Community Along a Lifecycle

Collaborative communities must support collaboration, brainstorming, and innovation in real-time. As stated in the *Overview of Desired Interaction between Business Entities* section, collaborative community participants must also respect a common agenda to reach program milestones.

2.3. Types of Global Collaboration

Global collaboration aims to improve interoperability between collaboration communities while minimizing manual intervention. PLM providers must consider interoperability with other PLM providers and CAD software versions; this is a **MUST** requirement of industry.

The two major streams of collaboration are *synchronous* and *asynchronous*. Fully synchronous collaboration is the recommended method for the future of global collaboration. However, it is recognized that asynchronous collaboration may still exist in minimal, unique situations and should be taken into consideration. The challenges and the business benefits of synchronous collaboration are addressed in later sections of this paper.

2.3.1. Synchronous

Synchronous collaboration includes multiple areas that establish a collaborative community and platform solution as described below:

- Data is referenced or linked across multiple platforms/environments.
- Technical data package is systematically transferred (no manual transfer).
- Remote access to the system is direct (i.e., direct access to the PLM or central platform solution).
- Conversion and validation are automatic, using common standards (i.e., STEP242).
- Data interoperability exists between PLM environments.
- Optimized, concurrent co-authoring is possible.
- Multi-party collaboration is available.
- Increased performance efficiencies are implemented.
- Controlled copies of master data are maintained.
- Data transfer across organizations is secure.

The synchronous collaboration solution would work in parallel with industry CAD and data interchange standards. The collaboration solution provides the platform to ensure control, bi-directional communication/sharing, and standards ensuring compatibility.

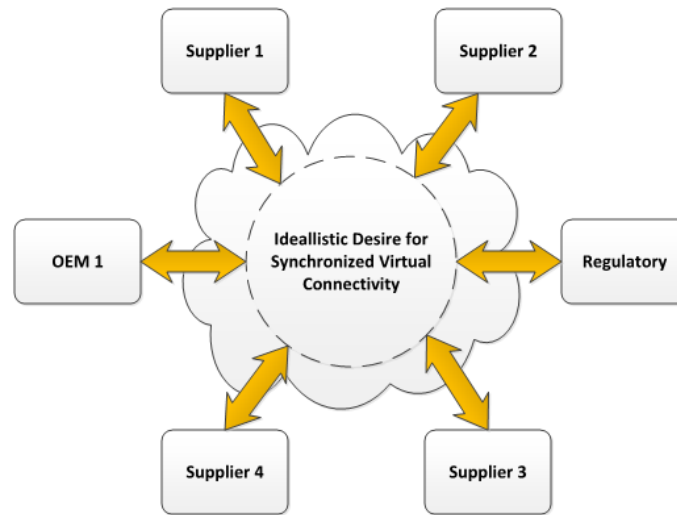


Figure 7 – Synchronous Collaboration Protocol (Different PLM Platforms)

This concept supports the following examples of data exchange:

- The OEM provides a cloud-based collaboration space to which the OEM–PLM workflow replicates TDP content. Once data is available, the solution notifies the supplier of availability and updates. Again, this approach offers bi-directional collaboration in that any form of upload from the supplier could be used to trigger a notification to the OEM.
- The PLM infrastructure allows one collaborative workspace for multiple communities or projects. This approach requires a network connection to the PLM environment, which can be challenging depending on the policies and procedures of the OEM and/or the supplier.

2.3.2. Asynchronous

Asynchronous collaboration also includes several areas that establish a collaborative community and platform solution as described below:

- A copy of the data is created.
- Data exchange is triggered by an event.
- Ad-hoc exchanges can occur frequently.
- Point-to-point data exchange is possible.
- Manual data preparation and exchange are available.
- Multiple iterations are difficult to track.
- Custom data conversion is an option.

An asynchronous collaboration solution would work in parallel with industry CAD and data interchange standards; however, it involves manual intervention and is not optimal for concurrent product development. This type of collaboration is typical of sequential transfer, which can lead

to data distribution and consumption delays. The following figure illustrates asynchronous data distribution.

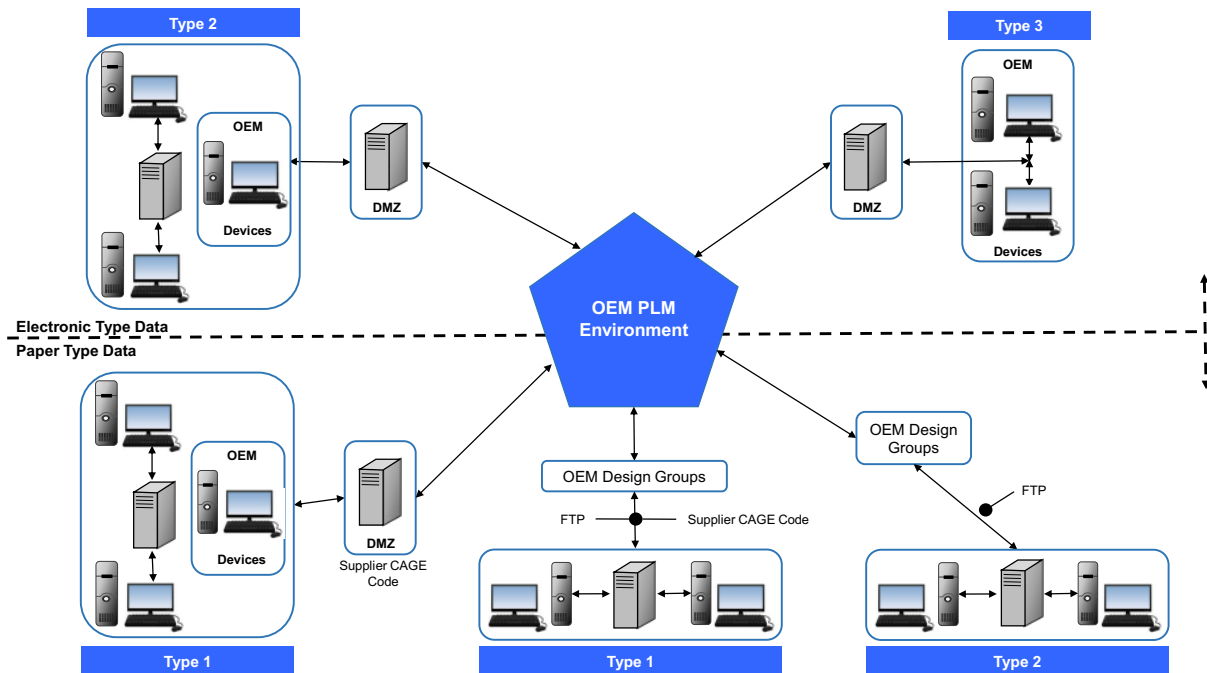


Figure 8 – Asynchronous Data Distribution

The asynchronous type of global collaboration supports the following examples of data exchange:

- Consider the Type 1 class of supplier (i.e., one that is manufacturing product in accordance with the OEM’s engineering data and specifications). This is sometimes known as *the make-to-print model*. The engineering data is the drawing or model, and it references multiple specifications and standards to enable compliant manufacture.
- The combination of engineering data, specifications, and standards (i.e., TDP), and this extended content must also be managed across the collaboration solution and the product definition. The manufacture of the product in these scenarios is typically distributed between primes and tiers, with primes offloading partial content to the tiers.

The further down the tiers a supply chain penetrates, the greater the potential of change management impact/risk (e.g., many manufacturing process definitions will be created to realize a single product for collaboration) and the greater potential for a number of non-PLM solutions coming into play.

- The supplier operates as a guest on the premise of an OEM PLM solution, securely accessing the TDP content when notified to do so, exporting content to supplier CAE and document management solutions. This approach offers bi-directional data movement from OEM to supplier and from

supplier to OEM, which is particularly useful during early product development when considering producibility.

2.4. Collaboration Methodology

A work methodology allows for managing, sharing, and processing data among several users and systems at anytime and anywhere in real-time. The recommended collaboration methodology includes the exchange of ideas/knowledge using standards and interaction among several project stakeholders, who are following an implementation strategy to enable collaboration throughout the product lifecycle. This strategy is supported by a collaboration framework that ensures consistency across the enterprise and the supporting industries for the project. The supporting key topics in this section can be used to better understand the full intent of a collaboration methodology.

Collaboration methodology should consider any disruptive technologies, ensuring that these technologies can be integrated into the collaboration workflow. The disruptive technologies should be assessed against the requirements to address the pros and cons of use during collaborative engagements supporting the system-of-systems and product lifecycle.

The AD PAG Global Collaboration team developed 8-step guidelines for collaboration. While reviewing industry standards, the workgroup discovered the ISO Collaboration standards define a similar 8-step process. Whether consisting of ISO standards or other guidelines, a framework that supports global collaboration allows the relationship between business entities to consistently support business exchange capabilities. Both collaboration approaches are outlined in the following sections.

2.4.1. AD PAG Global Collaboration Team Guidelines

These guidelines consider having a consistent method, while also supporting engagement between businesses and creating an interoperable exchange. An illustration and description of the guidelines follow:



Figure 9 – AD PAG Global Collaboration Team Guidelines

- 1a. **Prepare Recommended Collaboration for the Data Exchange Process** – Define and describe data to be exchanged, capabilities required for an efficient collaboration, and project management rules
- 1b. **Assess Supplier Capabilities** – Select a supplier based on their data exchange and project management capabilities (all other criteria are not part of Step 1) or to define what is awaited from the supplier already selected
2. **Commercial, Contractual, and Legal Relationship** – Establish all commercial, contractual, and legal relationships about data exchange and project management
3. **Set Up Governance** – Define and understand all rules and regulations before any interaction with any supplier where non-public data will be shared
4. **Project Management** – Establish a common means of collaborating and managing engineering activity, including activities scheduling, delivery, and performance measurement
5. **Set Up Interfaces and Organization** – Clearly define the interface between participants to enable clear and efficient collaboration between the OEM IT services and the supplier from deployment to the run mode. This requires that the supplier shall nominate key IS/IT representatives strictly in a timescale to meet the contract requirements

6. **Set up Collaboration Environment for Program Life** – Implement a system-neutral collaborative platform and determine the IT administration environment setup, configuration, and maintenance
7. **Program Review Process** – Cover the product and its constitutive products for both the make and the buy activities in the frame of the Product Development Plan. Ensure the product satisfies the agreed upon requirements and customer’s expectations by checking solution compliance against the technical, cost, and schedule objectives. This step decides the closure of the Design phase and also permits or denies transition to the next phase of the Design-Build process
8. **End State (LOTAR)** – Define a method of operation once the program has reached maturity or end-of-life

2.4.2. Collaboration Using an ISO Industry Standard

The ISO organization developed and published the ISO 44001 “*Collaborative business relationship framework detail*” standard. This standard established the requirements of a strategic lifecycle framework to improve collaborative business relationships in and between organizations of all sizes. Collaborative business relationships in the context of the ISO can be multidimensional; they can be one-to-one relationships or networked relationships involving multiple parties. The following figure illustrates the importance of collaborative relationship management during global collaboration.

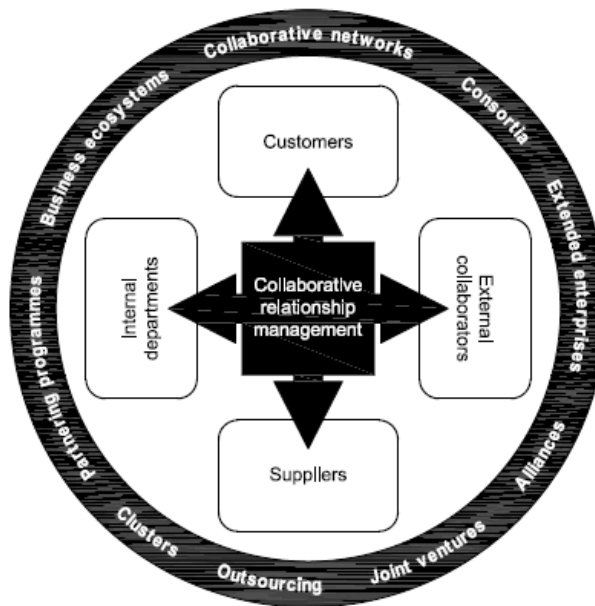


Figure 10 – ISO Framework²

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ISO 44001 Collaboration Framework²

In the context of collaborative relationships, a lifecycle model outlines the key steps to an effective management process from concept adoption to disengagement.

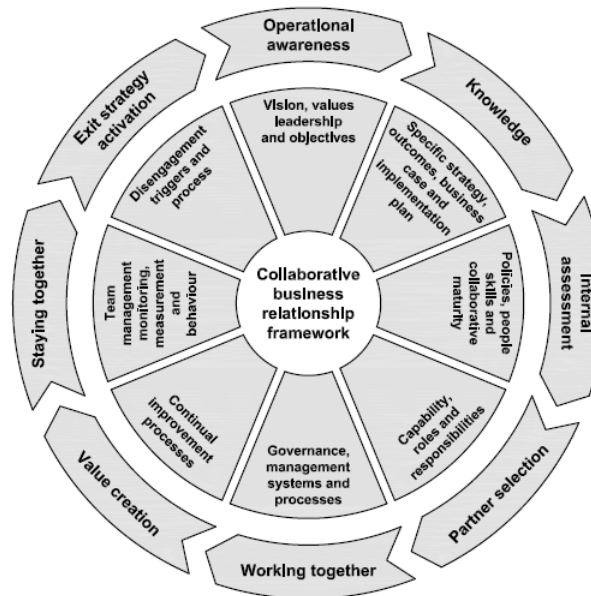


Figure 11 – ISO 44001 Lifecycle Model³

The following eight stages of the ISO 44001 lifecycle model should be incorporated to establish global collaboration:³

1. **Operational Awareness** – Establishing the organization’s propensity for collaboration
2. **Knowledge** – Evaluating specific collaborative benefits and business case
3. **Internal Assessment** – Assessing the organization’s capability to collaborate
4. **Partner Selection** – Establishing an appropriate selection process
5. **Working Together** – Establishing a joint governance model for collaboration
6. **Value Creation** – Establishing a joint process for continual improvement
7. **Staying Together** – Managing, monitoring, and measuring the relationship over time
8. **Exit Strategy Activation** – Establishing a joint approach for disengagement and/or the future

In a collaborative relationship, effective operation relies on specific, mutually agreed upon joint interfaces, processes, roles, and responsibilities that can require specific variations to in-house processes. In ISO 44001, it can appear that certain requirements are duplicated. However, efforts

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have been made to distinguish between an organization’s processes and requirements specific to the development and implementation of a specific joint relationship.³

Implementation Strategy⁴

ISO 44002 explains what is intended by each requirement of ISO 44001, describes why each is important, and recommends approaches to take for practical implementation. How to meet the requirements is individually evaluated and applied in the context of each organization. The following figure shows the high-level implementation flow.

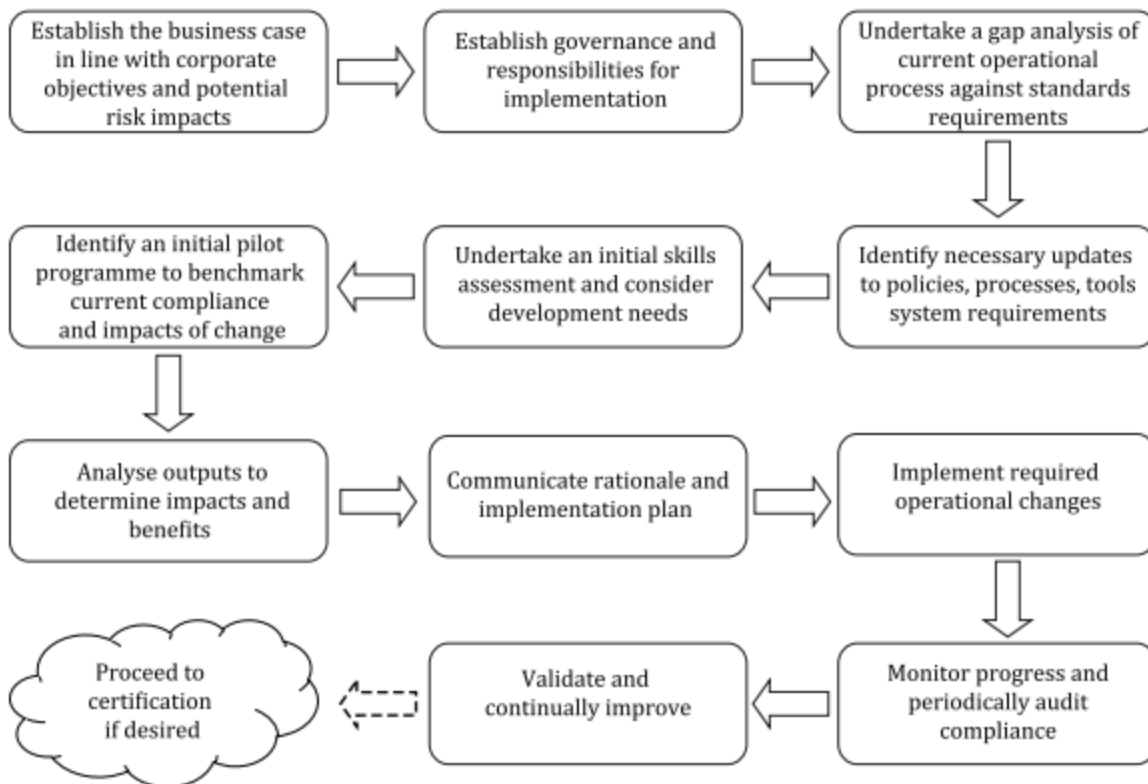


Figure 12 – High-Level Implementation Flow from ISO 44001⁴

AD PAG Industry Standards Team

The AD PAG has a supporting Standards team which has collected a list of standards information available on the CIMdata publications page. For additional information, follow this link: <https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/standards>

⁴ ©ISO. This material is adapted from ISO 44002:2019, with permission of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on behalf of the International Organization for Standardization. All rights reserved.

ISO Standards Versus AD PAG Guidelines

The two methodologies—ISO Standards and AD PAG Guidelines—reveal the importance of using a universal and consistent method when collaborating. Both methodologies examine key elements of collaboration, allowing business entities to consistently deploy techniques and provide opportunities for performance efficiencies during collaboration. As a simple example, consider Step 8. The ISO standard identifies an exit strategy, and AD PAG references the need to store data using LOTAR (Long Term Archiving and Retrieval) standards.

It is important to recognize that as global collaboration continues to grow across industries, clear value exists in understanding the different methodologies available for executing global collaboration.

Collaboration Management System (CMS) Application

The AD PAG Global Collaboration team is backing the development of an automated Collaboration Management System (CMS) application that supports the best practices for information exchange across OEMs, partners, suppliers, customers, and academia. The CMS application is described in a separate publication, which can be [downloaded here](#).

The CMS application will strengthen standard practices to provide consistency in the business use of collaboration standards. The specific practices of the CMS focus on guidance and implementation steps within the application to provide tracking and monitoring during collaboration lifecycle activities in alignment with program milestones. Companies can be confident in their collaboration readiness and organizational consistency by having these features set in an application.

2.5. Challenges of Synchronous Collaboration

Synchronous collaboration can create many challenges as participants use new collaboration methodologies to enhance business performance. Several key areas that can create challenges for global collaboration include standards, data exchange, security, cost, configuration management, and PLM and CAD software.

2.5.1. Standards

Standards-related challenges include the following:

- Inconsistent business participants and vendor (CAD/PLM) adoption and implementation of common and open standards
- Adaptation of business processes to implement complex standards
- Project agreement for standards being used
- Industry optimization of collaboration standards between the multiple standards organizations

2.5.2. Data Exchange

Data exchange-related challenges include the following:

- Implementation of data exchange agreement to synchronize data as quickly as possible
- Eradication of complex, multiple data conversions, as well as re-work and labor-intensive manual data conversions, including native versus neutral exchange format
- Alignment and validation of sending/receiving systems to confirm the intent of the attribute exchange is synchronized, considering the extraction process
- Collaboration with multiple types and levels of suppliers
- Ownership/responsibility/accountability of data integrity

2.5.3. Security

The primary security-related challenges are ensuring that all digital rights, IP protection, export control requirements, and data security protocols are in place for effective sharing, including archiving until end-of-life.

2.5.4. Cost

Cost considerations can be categorized into the following three areas:

- **People** are key to the success of a global collaboration effort. User training and effective communication are essential to enable the culture change of optimizing the solution.
- **Processes** must be mapped and adapted to understand internal and external interdependencies and opportunities to facilitate adoption of collaboration solutions, resulting in significant transformation costs. The time necessary to adopt and train users must also be considered.
- **Tools** investment in collaboration infrastructure to address the challenges of enhanced user experience, cyber security, data validation and migration, system interfaces, and long-term archiving are essential ingredients to achieving successful implementation, resulting in considerable implementation costs.

In addition, before launching a collaborative program, it must be considered that once implemented, a collaboration solution requires ongoing costs to ensure the solution is sustained during its lifecycle across the areas of people, processes, and tools.

2.5.5. Configuration Management

Configuration management-related challenges include the following:

- No known international standards for naming convention or version iteration exist to support data configuration management and change.
- Definition and agreement of configuration management plan, including any preconditions or special conditions enable a protocol for data configuration management and change process aligned to implementing the contractual collaboration agreement.
- Managing lifecycle/workflow for varying external suppliers, this element of collaboration can be custom and complex.

- Configuration of all data must remain in version control for multi-party exchanges and storage, especially during the early product development phase during which product definition iterations are likely to be many if operating concurrent engineering approach.
- Configuration of collaboration infrastructure supporting vault, repositories, and shared workspaces.

2.5.6. PLM and CAD Software

PLM and CAD software challenges include the following:

- Understanding the variety of PLM and CAD solution versions of each participant, as well as recording and maintaining this understanding to optimize and ensure robust collaboration throughout the life of the program
- Data interoperability, data synchronization, data validation, and data version compatibility between PLM and CAD solution providers
- Hardware and software obsolescence during the life of the program, including data mapping, migration, and possible data conversion to newer versions
- Software vendor and participant adoption of common industry standards to enable federated platform solutions

2.6. Business Benefits of Synchronous Collaboration

Synchronous global collaboration benefits focus on optimizing digital data exchange, configuration management, quality, and cost. To realize these benefits, digital transformation and integration between participants is necessary. Utilizing global collaboration methodologies across internal and external organizations will result in the opportunities outlined in the following sections.

2.6.1. Process Optimization and Quality

Process optimization and quality benefits of synchronous collaboration include the following:

- Systematic digital exchange of data and documents, which enhances communication through reduced email and meetings, results in improved communication efficiency, productivity, and a reduction in human intervention while optimizing approval timelines.
- A common environment allows multiple organizations to rapidly make informed decisions based on real-time data, enabling participant efficiency and virtual product reviews.
- Consistency created in data exchange methods reduces design iterations, compresses lead-time, and reduces development errors, resulting in improved quality and lower cost of late changes.

2.6.2. Data

Data-related benefits of synchronous collaboration include the following:

- Accelerated data availability reduces development lead time and minimizes iterations for optimal design solutions, ultimately enhancing product development through transparent interoperability.
- The OEM and supplier work simultaneously on active in-work data that is immediately available for all the partners in a format usable across the product lifecycle.

- Improved traceability, tracking, control, and ownership of authoritative data (i.e., master, single source of data) provides secure access to the latest in-work or released data version.
- Downstream applications access a single data source to minimize conversions or re-work.
- Enhanced interoperability eliminates manual data conversion.

2.6.3. Cost

Cost benefits of synchronous collaboration include the following:

- An optimized design process due to enhanced collaboration results in reduced time to market and zero defective products.
- A reduced-participant PLM infrastructure minimizes implementation and operational costs (e.g., Type 1 supplier in an asynchronous setup).

2.6.4. Configuration Management

Configuration management benefits of synchronous collaboration include the following:

- Improved configuration management and optimized release processes and change implementation using the same baseline for every partner or supplier enables concurrent engineering in a configured environment.
- Synchronization and effectivity implementation enable end-to-end digital continuity (i.e., not designing twice) and product design data supporting DMU and simulation across the product lifecycle.

3. Edition 3: Requirements for Global Collaboration

Collaboration enables successful digital transformation by requiring careful and deliberate planning, and above all, proactive and collaborative change management. All change efforts involve a series of steps that are both aligned with a clear vision (or intent) and embraced by the organization's leadership.

Unfortunately, a disconnect exists between the evolution of digital transformation technologies and the industry's capability to integrate and implement the benefits of those new technologies. Technology evolution moves very quickly and must be considered when consuming this content.

A&D industry processes are less agile than those of other industries due to factors such as the cost of updating and migrating legacy processes, contractual requirements, the human element, adaptability requirements, and an obligation to regulatory authorities. During the life of a program, organizations and processes will change. Therefore, the digital transformation must be as transparent as possible within the tools used, and the human and cultural factor must be considered carefully during digital transformation. The interaction between a human and a machine must be an easy and customizable working environment.

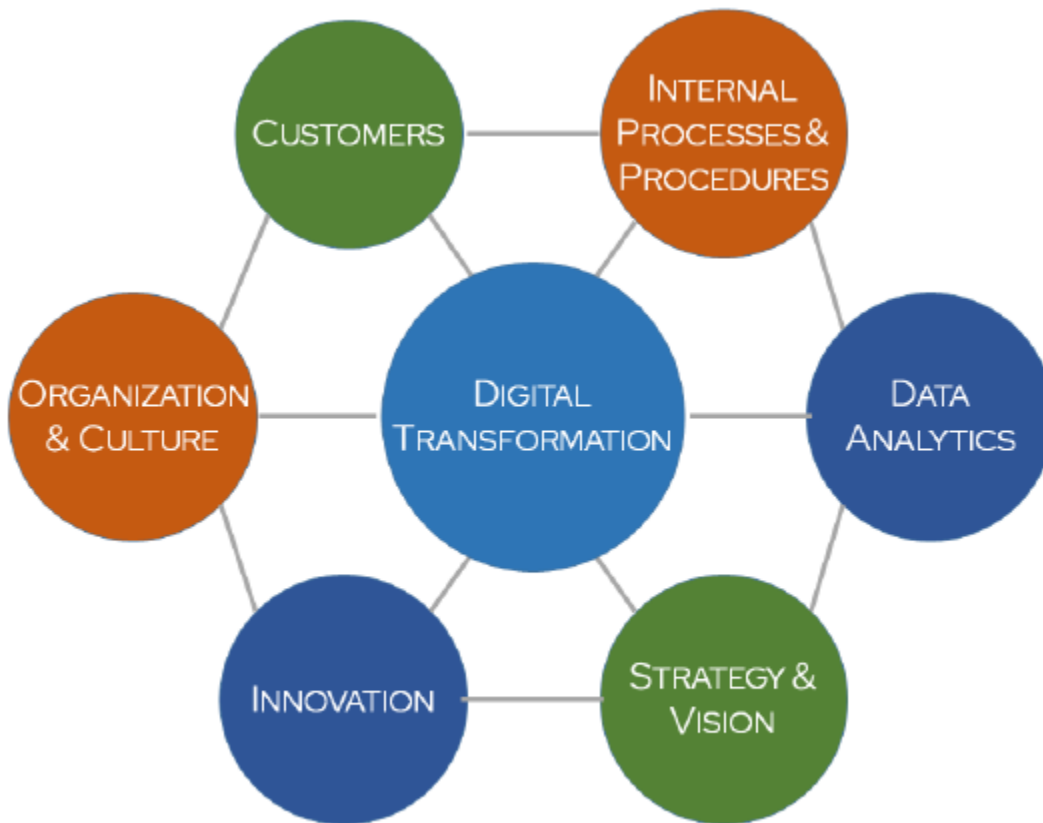


Figure 13 – Understanding Digital Transformation

<https://www.aia-aerospace.org/publications/a-senior-executives-starters-guide-to-understanding-digital-transformation/>

3.1. Collaboration Methodologies Review

Collaboration methodology is a system of methods that allows the managing, sharing, and processing of data among several users and systems, anytime and anywhere in real time. Generally, the recommended collaboration methodology includes the exchange of ideas/knowledge using standards and interaction among several project stakeholders using an implementation strategy to enable collaboration throughout the product lifecycle. This strategy is supported by a collaboration framework that ensures consistency across the enterprise and the supporting industries for the project.

Specifically, the AD PAG Global Collaboration team acknowledges that use of ISO standards, particularly the eight stages of ISO 44001, is a good foundational reference to start the general

collaboration process. However, the team’s AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines methodology for global collaboration processes is defined and recommended to best capture the A&D industry’s unique requirements.

The AD PAG Collaboration Guidelines methodology will detail the mechanics of configuring and integrating a supplier in an optimal state. The intent is that this specific methodology will aid OEMs in setting up and executing collaboration contracts and enabling environments and operational practices with their suppliers in a consistent manner.

Refer to *Appendix B: AD PAG Collaboration Guidelines Checklist* for a detailed checklist for the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines.

The key topics in the following sections clarify the full intent of the AD PAG Global Collaboration methodology.

3.1.1. AD PAG Detailed Collaboration Guidelines

The Global Collaboration team’s guidelines describe an 8-step methodology, like that of ISO 44001 but with an A&D industry focus, in support of global collaboration. These steps take another look at having a consistent method while supporting engagement between businesses and creating an interoperable data exchange. The original AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines shown below were detailed in the PLM Global Collaboration “*Collaboration Management System Description (CMS)*” research report available [here](#).



Figure 14 – AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines

Step 1. Prepare for Collaboration and Data Exchange

Purpose: To define and describe the data to be exchanged, the capabilities required for an efficient collaboration, and the project management rules. To select a supplier based on data exchange and project management capabilities (all other **criteria** are not part of Step 1) or to define what is awaited from the supplier already selected.

Prerequisites:

- Apply Non-Disclosure Agreement as required
- Applicable regulations are identified, supporting the project (consider worldwide business relationships, governments, and regional authorities)
- Statement of Work (SOW) has been defined (work scope defines category of supplier relationship, such as design and build to spec, design or other intellectual services, equipment)
- Export control and Intellectual Property (IP) agreement concerns are part of Step 3, and export control rules are not to be discussed but only observed
- Conditions to select a supplier are known

1.1 Define Type and Scope of Data

- Data structure/formats
- Filtering product structure
- Design data set and linked documents
- Data compliance to international standards

1.2 Define Recommended Way of Collaboration

- Shared workspace
- Level of access to workspace
- Media and transfer method
- Sending and receiving tool/systems

1.3 Define Recommended Project Management Terminology and Tool Set

- Review terminology and agree to a common glossary
- Team agreement on the collaboration tool
- Agree on dashboard elements and metric used for managing the project
- Define project management methodologies, workflow, and communication

1.4 Define IP-Compliant Process

- Review contractual IP expectations for each participating stakeholder and partner
- Expand upon contractually defined IP protection
- Define and implement IP protection-compliant processes for the collaboration

1.5 Assess Collaboration Capability

Consider any supporting supplier assessment materials already collected or needed for the project collaboration. Refer to the *Edition 2* section of this position paper for detail about classes of suppliers.

Suppliers may be ranked using the following criteria:

- Media and transfer method
- Sending and receiving tool/systems
- Data structure/formats
- Standardization material and processes
- Design technical requirements
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD) files and metadata
- Filtering product structure
- Design data set
- Documents linked to the design data set
- Project-unique requirements
- Customer requirements

1.6 Supplier Selection Announced

- One supplier is awarded by the company to perform the activity

1.7 Data Collaboration Agreement

- Collaboration agreement, which includes the agreed upon mechanisms and formats for data exchange, is created and signed
- Collaboration agreement is part of the main contract

1.8 Audit and Follow-Up

- Plan audits such as those defined in the Step 3
- Perform audits
- Define corrective actions, if necessary
- Perform follow-up actions

Step 2. Establish Commercial, Contractual, and Legal Relationships

Purpose: To establish all commercial, contractual, and legal relationships about data exchange and project management

Prerequisites:

- Scope of Work, planning schedules, delivery contents, and delivery milestones are defined; work scope defines category of supplier relationship (e.g., design and build to spec, design or other intellectual services, equipment)
- Commercial aspects (price, payment, penalties, etc.) agreed; work scope evolution requests are the buyer's job and are **not** included in Step 2
- Commercial and technical business interfaces agreed to (focal points have been designated)
- Export control rules are not to be discussed but only observed and considered

2.1 Define Data Exchange Rules and Processes

- Data format(s) agreed upon for the exchange
- Data content and context
- Exchange frequency
- Work in shared session or Exchange mode (visible data, up-loadable, down-loadable)
- Define requested licenses and how to make them available

2.2 Define Project Management Terms

- Subsidiary, partner, or supplier management rules
- Milestones definitions
- Project reviews content and frequency
- Action plan monitoring
- Performance indicators
- Project management and action plan reviewing tools

2.3 Monitor and Manage Contract Execution and Contractual Coverage of Evolution Requests

- Deliverables' validation or rejection
- Project reviews
- Performance indicators review
- Corrective actions
- Change in design management

2.4 Anticipate and Mitigate Contractual Risks

- Shared risk analysis
- Shared mitigation action plan

- Mitigation actions monitoring
- Contract amendment, if necessary

2.5 Amend the Contract

- Security violation escalation
- Non-quality escalation
- Delay or postponement of deliverables
- Launching of recovery actions
- Contract interruption or extension

2.6 Manage the Contract Expiration and Close and Terminate the Contract

- Handover of all deliverables, including hardware and software
- Proof of data archival or destruction
- Establishment of a plan for project closure

Step 3. Set Up Governance

Purpose: Where non-public data will be shared, rules and regulations must be defined and understood before any interaction with any supplier

Prerequisites:

- Dealing with participants from around the world, not just inbound/outbound United States
- Participating locations must be clearly specified
- Dealing with only the technical data, **not** the actual parts/deliverables (this makes a difference with export markings)
- Identified supplier is the company with whom contracted (i.e., the supplier is not necessarily the company who manufactures the item; could be using a second tier or third-party company, or may be a different derivative of the same company)
- Suppliers will manage their own supply chain
- Retention requirements have been determined (how long will data need to be kept?)

3.1 Establish Import/Export Guidelines

- What is the import company's country location?
- What is the export company's country location?
- What regulations apply? For example, the product could be imported from Europe and exported from Asia (US not involved))

3.2 Determine Intellectual Property (IP)

- What are the IP requirements for any given program?
- What are the rules?

- Who owns the data IP?
- Is it competition-sensitive data?
- Is it second tier or third-party data?

3.3 Implement Security Protocol(s)

- Is this classified or unclassified data?
- Is special access required?
- Is collaborating performed in a secured or unsecured space?
- How long must the data be kept by contract (i.e., data retention)?
- What are the access control policies?
- What is the disaster recovery plan?
- Has ISO 27000 Information Security Management been considered for security and cybersecurity?

3.4 Protect Personal Identifiable Information

- User attribute sharing: What information about a user can be shared publicly? If the users' names are going to be associated with the data, what information (e.g., user ID, citizenship, user location, etc.) can be displayed publicly?
- Are restrictions different per country? Per company?

3.5 Conduct Collaboration Platform Review(s)

The collaboration guidelines process supports collaboration platform review(s) and allows the stakeholders to assess the product and its constitutive elements for both the Make and the Buy activities in the frame of the Product Development Plan. Reviews ensure the product satisfies the contractual requirements and customer's expectations by checking solution compliance to technical, cost, and schedule objectives. The review process supports closure of a Design phase and permits or denies transition to the next phase of the Design-Build process.

This step involves agreement by all team members concerning the following:

- Milestones, deliverables, and measurement of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Checklist with acceptance criteria
- Change management process

Evaluate the collaboration platform on a recurring basis for performance, gaps, and improvements:

- Are all the AD PAG Collaboration Guidelines and checklist Steps 1-8 supporting the program review as planned, including program review milestone completion?
- Is the platform meeting the intended purpose for the project?
- Are there any open-step action items to be addressed?
- Do all participants have access as planned?
- Are there any limitations or roadblocks that need to be addressed?

- Does the platform support troubleshooting for the project collaboration?
- Is the support structure put in place and rectifying issues?
- Are support KPIs and/or a ticket service being met?
- Is the tool providing all the necessary services to support the project?
- Collect feedback for future improvements (Are there any proposed enhancements?)
- Is the platform availability and accessibility as expected? Comments can be collected to address performance of the platform (market feedback analysis)
- Are performance metrics available and meeting performance expectations?

Step 4. Establish Project Management

Purpose: Establish a common means of collaborating and managing the engineering activity, including scheduling of activities, delivery, and performance measurement

Prerequisites:

- Type of contract has been determined (see Step 2)
- Contractual agreements include what types of data are exchanged, delivery dates, and costs
- Statement of Work is the technical work description

4.1 Supply Chain Management

A dedicated organization shall be put in place by Tier 1 for Tier 2 management with specific resources as applicable; the organization will:

- Manage the flow down of OEM requirements
- Deploy all applicable tools, methods, and training
- Commit to controlling and securing quality, on-time delivery of contractual items
- Demonstrate capabilities and practices for adequate control and management of deliverables

4.2 Authority Delegation

- Determine what tasks are to be performed
- Delegate those tasks as applicable

4.3 Planning and Measuring

- Provide reporting of deliverable progress (metrics)
- Define the term *late* (how does the OEM determine when items are late?)
- Plan for end-of-life of the program collaboration (see Step 8)

4.4 Risk Analysis

- Determine any risks
- Mitigate those risks

Step 5. Set Up Interfaces and Organization

Purpose: The interface(s) between participants shall be clearly defined to enable clear-cut and efficient collaboration between the OEM Information Technology (IT) services and the supplier from Deployment to the Run mode. This step also requires that the supplier shall nominate key Information System (IS)/IT representatives strictly in a timescale to meet the contract requirements

Prerequisites:

- Participants have IT infrastructure in place
- Proposed collaborative system(s) is flexible/scalable to support the business need
 - Service Level Agreement is defined in the contract (see Step 2), which can include problem triage and resolution
- Preliminary assessment of quantity of users, data to be exchanged, and duration of the use has been determined
- Collaboration administration to be determined based on contract/team agreement

5.1 Nominate Focal Points

Determine a primary contact who is responsible for the overall coordination of activities related to the program, which include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that their company's IS/IT organization is in place
- Distributing any OEM IS/IT solution updates
- Maintaining a list of key IS/IT contacts for the roles described in this document
- Securing the communication and skills across the specific IS/IT community.
- Updating any hardware/software

5.2 Provide Access

Designate an appropriate representative who is responsible for:

- Setup and management of the collaboration environment
- Hardware setup
- Software setup
- Account setup and role assignment
- Creation, maintenance, and deletion of user accounts
- Data archiving/data retention rules
- An exit strategy
- Decommissioning the collaboration environment

5.3 Define a Support System

IT contact shall provide the first level of IS/IT support and serve as the focal point for respective users working with specified IS/IT solutions by ensuring:

- Regularly scheduled status/touch point meetings with IT and OEM
- Meetings can include but are not limited to audits, software/hardware upgrades, and/or migrations

Step 6. Set Up the Collaboration Environment for Program Life

Purpose: Implement a system-neutral collaborative platform and determine the IT administration environment setup, configuration, and maintenance

Prerequisites:

- Supplier has been selected and is “On Contract”
- Collaboration platform is the central workspace
- Regulations, such as export, have been determined (see Step 2)
- Collaboration requirements of Steps 1-5 are complete.

6.1 Preparation

- Define collaboration rules, such as:
 - Central workspace for native or converted data
 - Mapping of attributes (issue, status)
 - Read-only versus In-work
 - Versioning (configuration control of data)
- Define common “libraries” like standard parts
- Provide partners access to the collaborative platform
- Determine connectivity (how each environment is connected)
- Implement collaboration access rules

6.2 Initialization

- Fill the collaboration platform with data taking IT security agreements into account (see Step 3)
- Determine environment reusability of existing data in the collaboration platform (if applicable)
- If needed, convert data to the agreed format (proprietary or neutral), including validation (quality)

6.3 Operation

- Event-driven update of collaboration platform
- Ensure latest revision is available
- Run reviews and design solution
- Event-driven update of local IT-systems

Step 7. Conduct the Program Review(s)

Purpose: Collaboration guidelines support program review(s) and allow the stakeholders to assess the product and its constitutive elements for both the Make and the Buy activities in the frame of the Product Development Plan. Reviews ensure the product satisfies the contractual requirements and customer’s expectations by checking solution compliance to technical, cost, and schedule

objectives. The review process enables closure of a design phase and permits or denies transition to the next phase of the Design-Build process.

Prerequisite:

The collaboration process guidelines enable the collaboration platform, ensuring effective program reviews

7.1 Prepare the Optimized Program Review

The platform facilitates the evolution of the program review process and development status. Program review preparation is minimized because the latest data is available to all parties

- Review objectives and success criteria
- Review panel – Roles, Responsibilities and Authorities (RRA)
- Initiate continuous review process

7.2 Conduct the Program Review

- Ask: Do the deliverables meet the design intent?
- Review the methodology
- Review the data – models/drawings, specifications
- Complete the review checklist

7.3 Follow Up and Close the Program Review

- Publish the report and results
- Agree to actions and followup
- Manage changes and updates
- Set escalation rules and a mitigation path

Step 8. Perform End State Tasks

Purpose: To define a method of operation once the program has reached maturity or its end of life. Determine who is responsible for maintaining the collaboration final data (owner of type certification); decommission of the collaboration platform

Prerequisite:

Related data types and formats are defined in the contract

8.1 Review Data for Archiving

- Review and categorize data for potential reuse and archival; different data types need to be archived:
 - Data for regulatory authorities (depending on work package type)
 - Governmental requirements
 - All other program related data (e.g., all reports, calculations, etc.)

- Determine which party is responsible for archiving which data

8.2 Archive the Data

- Determine the CAD/Product Data Management (PDM) data to be archived
- Prepare documents and other data for archive in the agreed-to, contractual, standard format
- Align the archive date to the LoTAR standard

8.3 Decommission the Program/Project Collaboration Space

- Clarify if the collaboration space could be reused, and evaluate if the data is potentially applicable for other projects
- Determine if the space will not be reused; if that’s the case, decommission the collaboration space
- Deactivate synchronization processes, user IDs, etc.
- Determine a method for emergency or on-demand exchange (i.e., a low-volume exchange process)
- Address any remaining contract elements
- Decommission the collaboration space

3.1.2. Evolution of Collaboration Contracts

Due to the collaboration evolution defined and shown below, the contracts must have the capability of greater flexibility to incorporate the enhanced processes during the life of the program.

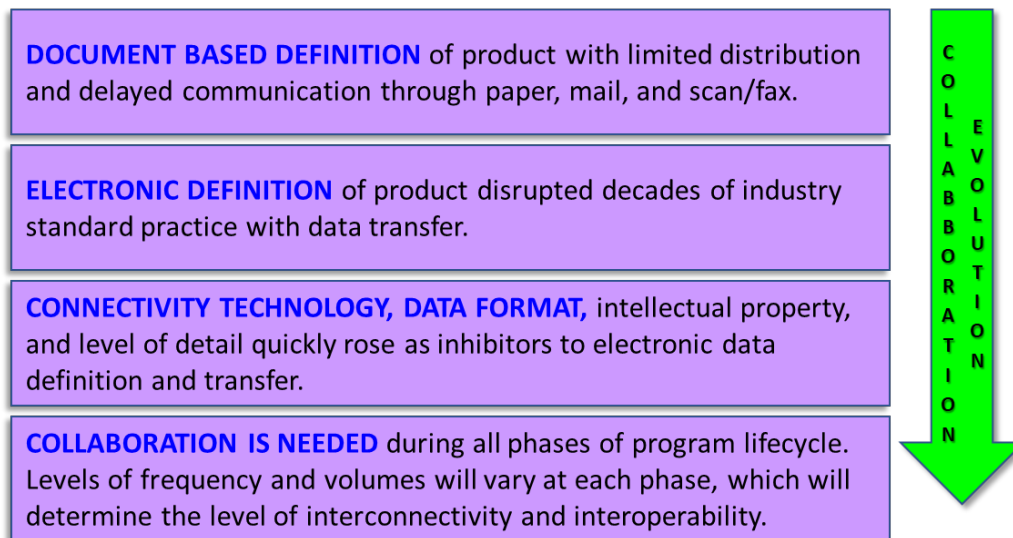


Figure 15 – Collaboration Evolution

3.2. Collaboration Guideline Automation

[The AD PAG Collaboration Management System \(CMS\) Description](#) research report describes the AD PAG CMS application that will strengthen standard practices by facilitating consistency in the business use of collaboration standards. The specific practices embedded in the CMS application provide guidance and implementation steps and support tracking and monitoring during collaboration lifecycle activities in alignment with program milestones. The intent is for companies to have confidence in their collaboration readiness and operational consistency by having these features set in an application. The AD PAG CMS provides an industry-optimized solution for how OEM/supplier collaborations can be managed.

Requests for collaboration specifications and/or applications from software providers other than Talisen Technologies, Inc., AD PAG's third-party partner, are welcome and can be addressed by contacting the AD PAG. (<http://www.ad-pag.com/>)

3.2.1. CMS Application – Talisen Technologies, Inc.

AD PAG worked with third-party Talisen Technologies, Inc. to build the CMS application (also known as the *CMS app*) to facilitate digital collaboration.

The Talisen CMS application manages the AD PAG's 8-Step Collaboration Guidelines as a digital solution. CMS can also support the ISO collaboration guidelines.

The Talisen CMS application is an open-service solution supporting AD PAG strategy for digital collaboration industry engagement. The application is in a free cloud-based service via Talisen or as an on-site solution with software licensing. Access to the CMS tool is available at <https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/initiatives/cms>.

3.3. AD PAG 8-Step Process and CMS App Pilot Results

After making the guidelines and the CMS application available to the AD PAG members, four members were asked to participate in pilot programs using the guidelines and the CMS app. Two pilot teams were formed based on existing (retro-looking) and new (forward-looking) programs.

3.3.1. Retro-Looking Pilot Program

The retro pilot program was conducted between two members and was designed to determine if an **on-going program/project** could have been optimized if the CMS app would have been available at the start.

This pilot involved the OEM, the primary supplier, and the primary supplier's partner. The OEM requested a single access point for the primary supplier and partner.

In hindsight, connecting the OEM and partners in a reduced cost and timeframe would have been possible if the CMS app had been available at the start. However, the members were able to work in parallel between the three parties.

General Feedback

- Need a structured method to define the elements required for collaboration
- May not address fully implementing an OEM environment at Tiers 1 and 2
- Provides a central repository for reference documents, work procedures, standards, contracts, and other project-relevant documents
- Consider adding a section focusing on infrastructure
- Should capture lessons learned; they will be helpful in future setups
- Need greater detail on how to better manage best processes to improve performance of the application(s)
- Capture how to leverage applicable training requirements on systems and methodology across all stakeholders
- Consider the ability to capture and manage financials that were involved (such as new servers, network devices, and licensing costs for the app)

Summary

This framework, had it been available, would have assisted stakeholders in setting up a collaborative environment in a cost-effective manner and perhaps would have reduced the time required to start a project. The OEM knew all the components and infrastructure, the application and guidelines checklist would have provided a tool to ensure communication.

- Documents, contractual items were available to stakeholders
- Compliance matrix used seems to be a subset of the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and checklist
- May not fully address how the approved network infrastructure available at the OEM should be implemented
- OEM should work with supplier prior to proposing a solution, be it infrastructure or methodology and requirements
- Can be used as a starting point for the next collaboration project
- Set up and operation of the legacy project would have been completed in a shorter time and at a lower cost had this checklist and app been available at the time

3.3.2. Forward-Looking Pilot Program

The forward-looking pilot program conducted between two members was to determine if a **new program/project** could be optimized if the CMS app and the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and checklist were used from the beginning.

There would have been greater value to the project if the complete CMS package had been available at the beginning of a project rather than, as in this case, mid project. The pilot team initially attended a three-day workshop to discuss the project scope and complete all the opening project administrative SOW. However, the team would have used the CMS app framework as a guide for setting up a collaborative environment/project had the app been available.

Positive Feedback

- Tool/methodology provides guidance and rigor for collaboration
- Tool gives a better understanding of the SOW developed, which could have been established in earlier phases of the project, specifically around the supplier-Boeing agreements
- The CMS app framework enabled further discussion around specifics such as IT infrastructure, data IP rules, supplier-Boeing agreements, and data/project archival

Constructive Feedback

- Beginning of CMS framework could further address discussion around exploratory technology (perhaps known in industry as *Technology Readiness Level* (TRL)). For example, what systems, materials, or manufacturing processes do the stakeholders have available to complete project goals? This would be discussed before technology selection.
- It was difficult for the team to address program review questions within AD PAG Guideline Step 7 as a few did not apply. There was an ask to make these questions more agnostic around product reviews instead of program reviews.
- Perhaps the CMS app questions could be better completed if set up in a requirement–verification–deliverable framework.
- There were questions around validation of answers: “How do we know if answers to the framework were fulfilled?”
- Of similar nature to validation, “How can we further apply Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs) to both the questions and project overall to ensure a quality deliverable?”
- It would be useful to integrate a partnership between the CMS app and a development tool such as Supplier Requirements Exchange (SRX).

Summary

- The framework helped guide conversation among the stakeholders for setting up a collaborative environment, thereby enabling improved quality of a project
- Strengthening of IT interfaces/infrastructure, access authorizations, and archiving is needed to bring rigor to the process
- The AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and checklist used during the pilot are:
 - Project-centric/program-oriented
 - Useful before starting the collaboration, but not necessarily the most suitable for research and technology (R&T) type projects versus programs in development
 - Instrumental in identifying the fundamentals and importance of establishing a SOW, which typically precedes the establishment of an agreement (legal side)
 - Useful in initiating discussions of certain subjects such as export control, IP, termination clause, etc. in advance of signing a collaboration agreement (negotiations can take time and are often carried out in parallel activities)

3.4. AD PAG 8-Steps Compared with ISO 44001

The AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines are specifically recommended for the aerospace industry as defined by the AD PAG members. Key differences between ISO 44001 and the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines are as follows:

ISO points not covered in the AD PAG 8-Steps Guideline and checklist are as follows:

- Competencies
- Knowledge management
- Value creation
- Future opportunities

The AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and checklist points not covered in the ISO 44001 checklist are as follows:

- Terminology on tool
- Data exchange protocol
- Export control
- Security
 - IP
 - Archiving

See *Appendix D: ISO and AD PAG Comparison* for the detailed comparison.

3.5. Culture Change to Optimize Collaboration

Implementing new PLM or other equivalent tools may require re-engineering the processes and reconstructing the organization to support the new tools and capabilities. Organizational Change Management (OCM) must be engaged throughout the process. OCM typically includes four key components: communications, training, resistance management, and culture change. It is defined by *ISO/TS 10020:2022 Quality Management Systems Organizational Change Management Processes*.

3.5.1. Culture Change within the Organization

Implementation of a new PLM or other equivalent collaboration tool requires reevaluating existing processes and considering potential changes to optimize the organization. Before implementing any new collaboration tools, it is necessary to involve management and stakeholders to ensure that they understand and will communicate the planned capabilities and potential impacts to the organization. Commitment of management and stakeholders is critical to ensure implementation of the enhanced processes, which are not necessarily new processes, but current processes adapted and improved with the new collaboration tool capability.

Leaders must be invested in the change and actively champion the change. This means clearly communicating the desired culture, modeling the behaviors, and holding the teams accountable.

3.5.2. Change Management

In parallel with implementation of this new tool, change management actions must be carried out within the framework of the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines. To optimize the collaboration internally and with partners and suppliers, it is necessary to develop a plan that considers, but is not limited to, the following list:

- Develop a clear vision defining what success looks like and its benefits to the company
- Assess collaboration effectiveness and adjust approaches as required
- Select a panel of key users representative of different generations, categories, adaptability, etc.
- Integrate the key users into the study, development, and testing of the new tool
- Identify the blocking points and work with the software provider (vendor) to find a solution(s)
Note: This necessitates some flexibility from not only the software vendor but the software, which must be easily configurable and must not require adaptations or specific interfaces that would have to be redone in the event of software changes
- Communicate transparently via the OCM team throughout the process about the results—successes, failures, and blocking points—explaining why some processes and organization changes are required

3.5.3. User Interface Between Human and Machine

To facilitate adoption of new collaboration tools or other equivalent tools by operators, the interface between human and machine must be easy and intuitive, and the navigation menus must be explicit. It is also useful to have integrated multi-lingual user guides configured by the administrators.

3.6. Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels

Categorization of the collaborators is the set of criteria used to qualify the types of data exchange with the OEM. Classification for the collaborator is needed for the OEM to define methodology and tools for collaboration and integration, including exchange using industry standards and specifications. Collaborators can be categorized based on their business engagement, tools, and capabilities. Using the framework referred to in the *Step-by-Step Collaboration Framework* section, suppliers were defined by types and levels of framework necessary to support the desired collaboration. Global collaboration has evolved from the original supplier engagement framework levels listed in Table 11, Section 2.2.1. The new collaboration engagement levels are defined in the following figure.

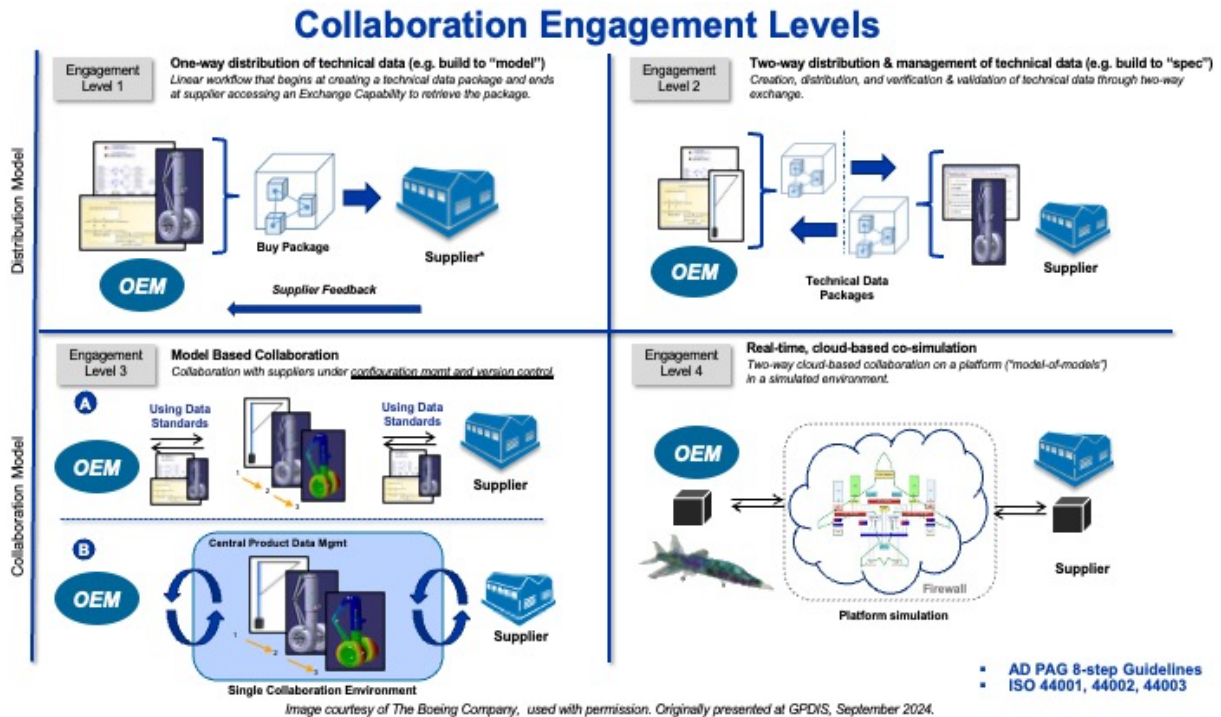


Figure 16 – New Supplier Collaboration Engagement Levels

- Engagement Level 1 – One-way distribution of technical data (e.g., build to “model”); linear workflow that begins at creating a TDP and ends at the supplier accessing an exchange capability to retrieve the package
- Engagement Level 2 – Two-way distribution and management of technical data (e.g., build to “spec”); creation, distribution, and verification and validation (V&V) of technical data through two-way exchange
- Engagement Level 3 – A model-based collaboration service enables co-design with suppliers; digital metadata enables interoperability; collaboration with suppliers under configuration management and version control
- Engagement Level 4 – Real-time, cloud-based co-simulation; two-way cloud-based collaboration on a platform (“model-of-models”) in a simulated environment

3.7. Collaboration-Supporting AD PAG Initiatives

Within the AD PAG working groups three teams are focusing on initiatives involving MBE, MBSE, and the Digital Twin/Digital Thread. These teams are helping describe methods for collaboration and digital transformation across the aerospace industry.

A summary of the activities these teams are pursuing follows. Please refer to the links for more detailed information about each of the teams.

The concepts and requirements proposed by these working groups are addressed through this team’s AD PAG Global Collaboration 8-Steps Guidelines.

3.7.1. Model-Based Enterprise (MBE)

Legacy collaboration methods started with the exchange of drawings, engineering changes, and bill of materials usually by mail. Once exchange systems became available, electronic 2D data was started, and it eventually changed into 3D geometry. As digital exchange environments became more common, the type of data exchange became a superset of digital collaboration data. (Refer to the MBE Maturity Index figure.) The collaboration platforms continue to evolve to allow processing of the enhanced MBE collaborative requirements.

Sandia National Laboratories has published a Model-Based Enterprise (MBE) Maturity Level Index, which is available at

https://www.sandia.gov/app/uploads/sites/171/2022/06/NSE_MBE_Maturity_Index_UUR_B.3.xlsm.

Maturity Level Name Level # Categories (e.g., C1) Topics (e.g., F1) Facets (e.g., F2)	MBE Maturity Index - WIP Draft: 20190329a							3D BE Level Target: Networked Organization	Capability Tools are Available	Readiness Processes are Ready	Adoption Features are Strong								
	Drawing-Centric	Model-Centric	Validated Model-Centric	Model-Based Definition	Trusted Model-Based Definition	Integrated Model-Based Enterprise	Extended Model-Based Enterprise												
	L0	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6												
C1: Design Activities	Activities involved in defining a product for production or other reuse activities.		The part defining definition becomes the trusted 2D model.		The 3D model becomes the product authority.		Product requirements become certified and associated with individual model-based characteristics.		The presentation and representation of shape and non-shape information that fully defines the product.		Validation and certification of the design intent in the form of a 3D model, become more through, formal, and automated.		Derivatives become functionality equipment and formally traceable to the source.						
F1: Product Authority	F1: Authoritative Source	F1: Paper 2D drawing	F1: Electronic 2D drawing	F1: Same	F1: Interactive Viewable (IDV) w/STEP	F1: MBD Dataset w/STEP	F1: Same	F1: MBE w/ enhanced IDV	4.1	3.7	2.7	1.8	4.2	4.0	2.7	1.7			
F2: Product Requirements	F2: Form	F2: Disconnected	F2: Association and notes	F2: Influence	F2: Product Definition	F2: Shape	F2: PMI (annotations, notes)	F2: Supplemental data	F2: Metadata	F2: Presentation	F2: Model Quality & Certification	F2: Validation	F2: Certification	F2: Model Derivatives	F2: Scope	F2: Authoring	F2: Validation	F2: Traceability	F2: Managed
F3: Non-electronic	F3: Electronic	F3: Disconnected	F3: Association and notes	F3: Influence	F3: Product Definition	F3: Shape	F3: PMI (annotations, notes)	F3: Supplemental data	F3: Metadata	F3: Presentation	F3: Model Quality & Certification	F3: Validation	F3: Certification	F3: Model Derivatives	F3: Scope	F3: Authoring	F3: Validation	F3: Traceability	F3: Managed
F4: Non-electronic	F4: Electronic	F4: Disconnected	F4: Association and notes	F4: Influence	F4: Product Definition	F4: Shape	F4: PMI (annotations, notes)	F4: Supplemental data	F4: Metadata	F4: Presentation	F4: Model Quality & Certification	F4: Validation	F4: Certification	F4: Model Derivatives	F4: Scope	F4: Authoring	F4: Validation	F4: Traceability	F4: Managed
F5: Non-electronic	F5: Electronic	F5: Disconnected	F5: Association and notes	F5: Influence	F5: Product Definition	F5: Shape	F5: PMI (annotations, notes)	F5: Supplemental data	F5: Metadata	F5: Presentation	F5: Model Quality & Certification	F5: Validation	F5: Certification	F5: Model Derivatives	F5: Scope	F5: Authoring	F5: Validation	F5: Traceability	F5: Managed
F6: Non-electronic	F6: Electronic	F6: Disconnected	F6: Association and notes	F6: Influence	F6: Product Definition	F6: Shape	F6: PMI (annotations, notes)	F6: Supplemental data	F6: Metadata	F6: Presentation	F6: Model Quality & Certification	F6: Validation	F6: Certification	F6: Model Derivatives	F6: Scope	F6: Authoring	F6: Validation	F6: Traceability	F6: Managed
F7: Non-electronic	F7: Electronic	F7: Disconnected	F7: Association and notes	F7: Influence	F7: Product Definition	F7: Shape	F7: PMI (annotations, notes)	F7: Supplemental data	F7: Metadata	F7: Presentation	F7: Model Quality & Certification	F7: Validation	F7: Certification	F7: Model Derivatives	F7: Scope	F7: Authoring	F7: Validation	F7: Traceability	F7: Managed
F8: Non-electronic	F8: Electronic	F8: Disconnected	F8: Association and notes	F8: Influence	F8: Product Definition	F8: Shape	F8: PMI (annotations, notes)	F8: Supplemental data	F8: Metadata	F8: Presentation	F8: Model Quality & Certification	F8: Validation	F8: Certification	F8: Model Derivatives	F8: Scope	F8: Authoring	F8: Validation	F8: Traceability	F8: Managed
F9: Non-electronic	F9: Electronic	F9: Disconnected	F9: Association and notes	F9: Influence	F9: Product Definition	F9: Shape	F9: PMI (annotations, notes)	F9: Supplemental data	F9: Metadata	F9: Presentation	F9: Model Quality & Certification	F9: Validation	F9: Certification	F9: Model Derivatives	F9: Scope	F9: Authoring	F9: Validation	F9: Traceability	F9: Managed
F10: Non-electronic	F10: Electronic	F10: Disconnected	F10: Association and notes	F10: Influence	F10: Product Definition	F10: Shape	F10: PMI (annotations, notes)	F10: Supplemental data	F10: Metadata	F10: Presentation	F10: Model Quality & Certification	F10: Validation	F10: Certification	F10: Model Derivatives	F10: Scope	F10: Authoring	F10: Validation	F10: Traceability	F10: Managed
F11: Non-electronic	F11: Electronic	F11: Disconnected	F11: Association and notes	F11: Influence	F11: Product Definition	F11: Shape	F11: PMI (annotations, notes)	F11: Supplemental data	F11: Metadata	F11: Presentation	F11: Model Quality & Certification	F11: Validation	F11: Certification	F11: Model Derivatives	F11: Scope	F11: Authoring	F11: Validation	F11: Traceability	F11: Managed
F12: Non-electronic	F12: Electronic	F12: Disconnected	F12: Association and notes	F12: Influence	F12: Product Definition	F12: Shape	F12: PMI (annotations, notes)	F12: Supplemental data	F12: Metadata	F12: Presentation	F12: Model Quality & Certification	F12: Validation	F12: Certification	F12: Model Derivatives	F12: Scope	F12: Authoring	F12: Validation	F12: Traceability	F12: Managed
F13: Non-electronic	F13: Electronic	F13: Disconnected	F13: Association and notes	F13: Influence	F13: Product Definition	F13: Shape	F13: PMI (annotations, notes)	F13: Supplemental data	F13: Metadata	F13: Presentation	F13: Model Quality & Certification	F13: Validation	F13: Certification	F13: Model Derivatives	F13: Scope	F13: Authoring	F13: Validation	F13: Traceability	F13: Managed
F14: Non-electronic	F14: Electronic	F14: Disconnected	F14: Association and notes	F14: Influence	F14: Product Definition	F14: Shape	F14: PMI (annotations, notes)	F14: Supplemental data	F14: Metadata	F14: Presentation	F14: Model Quality & Certification	F14: Validation	F14: Certification	F14: Model Derivatives	F14: Scope	F14: Authoring	F14: Validation	F14: Traceability	F14: Managed
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F16: Non-electronic	F16: Electronic	F16: Disconnected	F16: Association and notes	F16: Influence	F16: Product Definition	F16: Shape	F16: PMI (annotations, notes)	F16: Supplemental data	F16: Metadata	F16: Presentation	F16: Model Quality & Certification	F16: Validation	F16: Certification	F16: Model Derivatives	F16: Scope	F16: Authoring	F16: Validation	F16: Traceability	F16: Managed
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F18: Non-electronic	F18: Electronic	F18: Disconnected	F18: Association and notes	F18: Influence	F18: Product Definition	F18: Shape	F18: PMI (annotations, notes)	F18: Supplemental data	F18: Metadata	F18: Presentation	F18: Model Quality & Certification	F18: Validation	F18: Certification	F18: Model Derivatives	F18: Scope	F18: Authoring	F18: Validation	F18: Traceability	F18: Managed
F19: Non-electronic	F19: Electronic	F19: Disconnected	F19: Association and notes	F19: Influence	F19: Product Definition	F19: Shape	F19: PMI (annotations, notes)	F19: Supplemental data	F19: Metadata	F19: Presentation	F19: Model Quality & Certification	F19: Validation	F19: Certification	F19: Model Derivatives	F19: Scope	F19: Authoring	F19: Validation	F19: Traceability	F19: Managed
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F22: Non-electronic	F22: Electronic	F22: Disconnected	F22: Association and notes	F22: Influence	F22: Product Definition	F22: Shape	F22: PMI (annotations, notes)	F22: Supplemental data	F22: Metadata	F22: Presentation	F22: Model Quality & Certification	F22: Validation	F22: Certification	F22: Model Derivatives	F22: Scope	F22: Authoring	F22: Validation	F22: Traceability	F22: Managed
F23: Non-electronic	F23: Electronic	F23: Disconnected	F23: Association and notes	F23: Influence	F23: Product Definition	F23: Shape	F23: PMI (annotations, notes)	F23: Supplemental data	F23: Metadata	F23: Presentation	F23: Model Quality & Certification	F23: Validation	F23: Certification	F23: Model Derivatives	F23: Scope	F23: Authoring	F23: Validation	F23: Traceability	F23: Managed
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F26: Non-electronic	F26: Electronic	F26: Disconnected	F26: Association and notes	F26: Influence	F26: Product Definition	F26: Shape	F26: PMI (annotations, notes)	F26: Supplemental data	F26: Metadata	F26: Presentation	F26: Model Quality & Certification	F26: Validation	F26: Certification	F26: Model Derivatives	F26: Scope	F26: Authoring	F26: Validation	F26: Traceability	F26: Managed
F27: Non-electronic	F27: Electronic	F27: Disconnected	F27: Association and notes	F27: Influence	F27: Product Definition	F27: Shape	F27: PMI (annotations, notes)	F27: Supplemental data	F27: Metadata	F27: Presentation	F27: Model Quality & Certification	F27: Validation	F27: Certification	F27: Model Derivatives	F27: Scope	F27: Authoring	F27: Validation	F27: Traceability	F27: Managed
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F29: Non-electronic	F29: Electronic	F29: Disconnected	F29: Association and notes	F29: Influence	F29: Product Definition	F29: Shape	F29: PMI (annotations, notes)	F29: Supplemental data	F29: Metadata	F29: Presentation	F29: Model Quality & Certification	F29: Validation	F29: Certification	F29: Model Derivatives	F29: Scope	F29: Authoring	F29: Validation	F29: Traceability	F29: Managed
F30: Non-electronic	F30: Electronic	F30: Disconnected	F30: Association and notes	F30: Influence	F30: Product Definition	F30: Shape	F30: PMI (annotations, notes)	F30: Supplemental data	F30: Metadata	F30: Presentation	F30: Model Quality & Certification	F30: Validation	F30: Certification	F30: Model Derivatives	F30: Scope	F30: Authoring	F30: Validation	F30: Traceability	F30: Managed
F31: Non-electronic	F31: Electronic	F31: Disconnected	F31: Association and notes	F31: Influence	F31: Product Definition	F31: Shape	F31: PMI (annotations, notes)	F31: Supplemental data	F31: Metadata	F31: Presentation	F31: Model Quality & Certification	F31: Validation	F31: Certification	F31: Model Derivatives	F31: Scope	F31: Authoring	F31: Validation	F31: Traceability	F31: Managed
F32: Non-electronic	F32: Electronic	F32: Disconnected	F32: Association and notes	F32: Influence	F32: Product Definition	F32: Shape	F32: PMI (annotations, notes)	F32: Supplemental data	F32: Metadata	F32: Presentation	F32: Model Quality & Certification	F32: Validation	F32: Certification	F32: Model Derivatives	F32: Scope	F32: Authoring	F32: Validation	F32: Traceability	F32: Managed
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F36: Non-electronic	F36: Electronic	F36: Disconnected	F36: Association and notes	F36: Influence	F36: Product Definition	F36: Shape	F36: PMI (annotations, notes)	F36: Supplemental data	F36: Metadata	F36: Presentation	F36: Model Quality & Certification	F36: Validation	F36: Certification	F36: Model Derivatives	F36: Scope	F36: Authoring	F36: Validation	F36: Traceability	F36: Managed
F37: Non-electronic	F37: Electronic	F37: Disconnected	F37: Association and notes	F37: Influence	F37: Product Definition	F37: Shape	F37: PMI (annotations, notes)	F37: Supplemental data	F37: Metadata	F37: Presentation	F37: Model Quality & Certification	F37: Validation	F37: Certification	F37: Model Derivatives	F37: Scope	F37: Authoring	F37: Validation	F37: Traceability	F37: Managed
F38: Non-electronic	F38: Electronic	F38: Disconnected	F38: Association and notes	F38: Influence	F38: Product Definition	F38: Shape	F38: PMI (annotations, notes)	F38: Supplemental data	F38: Metadata	F38: Presentation	F38: Model Quality & Certification	F38: Validation	F38: Certification	F38: Model Derivatives	F38: Scope	F38: Authoring	F38: Validation	F38: Traceability	F38: Managed
F39: Non-electronic	F39: Electronic	F39: Disconnected	F39: Association and notes	F39: Influence	F39: Product Definition	F39: Shape	F39: PMI (annotations, notes)	F39: Supplemental data	F39: Metadata	F39: Presentation	F39: Model Quality & Certification	F39: Validation	F39: Certification	F39: Model Derivatives	F39: Scope	F39: Authoring	F39: Validation	F39: Traceability	F39: Managed
F40: Non-electronic	F40: Electronic	F40: Disconnected	F40: Association and notes	F40: Influence	F40: Product Definition	F40: Shape	F40: PMI (annotations, notes)	F40: Supplemental data	F40: Metadata	F40: Presentation	F40: Model Quality & Certification	F40: Validation	F40: Certification	F40: Model Derivatives	F40: Scope	F40: Authoring	F40: Validation	F40: Traceability	F40: Managed
F41: Non-electronic	F41: Electronic	F41: Disconnected	F41: Association and notes	F41: Influence	F41: Product Definition	F41: Shape	F41: PMI (annotations, notes)	F41: Supplemental data	F41: Metadata	F41: Presentation	F41: Model Quality & Certification	F41: Validation	F41: Certification	F41: Model Derivatives	F41: Scope	F41: Authoring	F41: Validation	F41: Traceability	F41: Managed
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F45: Non-electronic	F45: Electronic	F45: Disconnected	F45: Association and notes	F45: Influence	F45: Product Definition	F45: Shape	F45: PMI (annotations, notes)	F45: Supplemental data	F45: Metadata	F45: Presentation	F45: Model Quality & Certification	F45: Validation	F45: Certification	F45: Model Derivatives	F45: Scope	F45: Authoring	F45: Validation	F45: Traceability	F45: Managed
F46: Non-electronic	F46: Electronic	F46: Disconnected	F46: Association and notes	F46: Influence	F46: Product Definition	F46: Shape	F46: PMI (annotations, notes)	F46: Supplemental data	F46: Metadata	F46: Presentation	F46: Model Quality & Certification	F46: Validation	F46: Certification	F46: Model Derivatives	F46: Scope	F46: Authoring	F46: Validation	F46: Traceability	F46: Managed
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F48: Non-electronic	F48: Electronic	F48: Disconnected	F48: Association and notes	F48: Influence	F48: Product Definition	F48: Shape	F48: PMI (annotations, notes)	F48: Supplemental data	F48: Metadata	F48: Presentation	F48: Model Quality & Certification	F48: Validation	F48: Certification	F48: Model Derivatives	F48: Scope	F48: Authoring	F48: Validation	F48: Traceability	F48: Managed
F49: Non-electronic	F49: Electronic	F49: Disconnected	F49: Association and notes	F49: Influence	F49: Product Definition	F49: Shape	F49: PMI (annotations, notes)	F49: Supplemental data	F49: Metadata	F49: Presentation	F49: Model Quality & Certification	F49: Validation	F49: Certification	F49: Model Derivatives	F49: Scope	F49: Authoring	F49: Validation	F49: Traceability	F49: Managed</

Table 13 – Level Names and Themes

Level	Level Name	Level Themes
L0	Drawing-Centric	2D Drawings Only; Disconnected
L1	Drawing Model-Centric	2D Drawings & STEP Derived from 3D Models; Drawings Managed, Disconnected from Models
L2	Validated Model-Centric	2D Drawings & Equivalent Derivatives from Validated 3D Models; Drawings Managed, Disconnected from Models
L3	Formalized Model-Based Definition	3D Models with Semantic PMI Added; Producing 3D Interactive Viewables, Managed as Part-Centric
L4	Trusted Model-Based Definition	Digital Model-Based Definition (MBD) , Certified & Authorized; Managed & Sourced as Part-Centric
L3	Integrated Model-Based Enterprise	Enterprise Integrated from Trusted Digital Product Definition Dataset; Process Data Managed with Part-Centric
L6	Extended Model-Based Enterprise	Enterprise Extended with Optimized Capabilities and Extended Partners

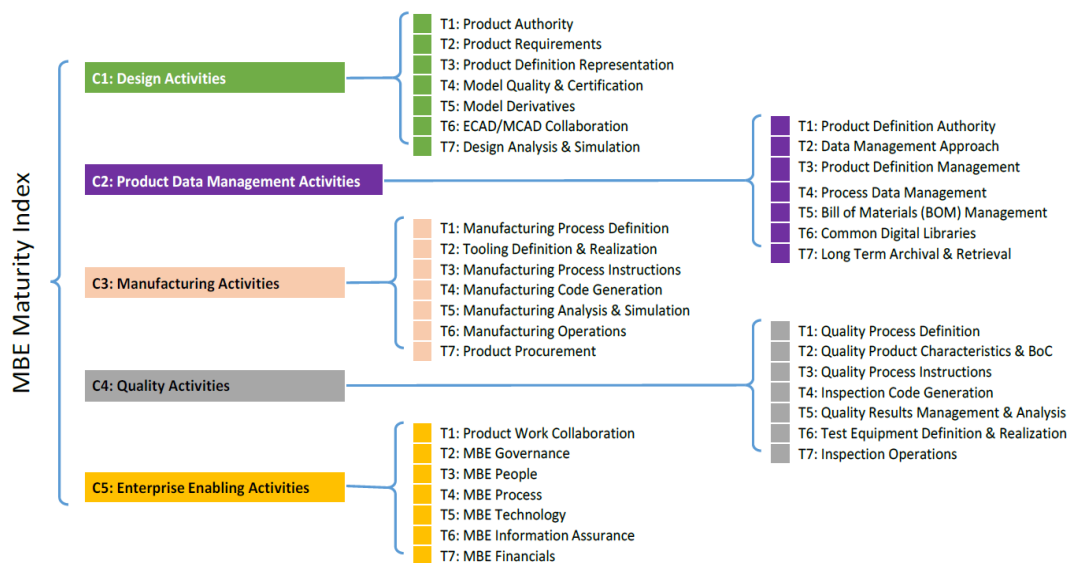


Figure 18 – MBE Maturity Index Categories

3.7.2. Model-Based System Engineering (MBSE)

Although MBSE is not a core component of a federated or synchronized system, a bi-directional link must be established to ensure that all requirements are fully captured for the complete supply chain. Significant content has been provided by the AD PAG MBSE team:

- *MBSE Data Interoperability Specification Report* - Research Report from 9th December 2020
- *MBSE Data Interoperability - Architecture Model Exchange Solutions* - Presentation from 16th November 2020

- *Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) Data Interoperability - Position Paper* from 24th January 2019
- Additional work is underway supporting model-based OEM/supplier collaboration needs in the Aviation Industry Driving Toolchain Requirements and Tool Provider Selection areas
- Additional external resources supporting this team are under applied architecture frameworks like the Unified Architecture Framework ([UAF](#)) or Department of Defense Architecture Framework ([DoDAF](#)); The British Ministry of Defence Architecture Framework (MODAF) replaced by the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) Architecture Framework](#) needs mapping to a universal methodology to enable collaboration

Refer to the following link to download the AD PAG MBSE team’s publications:
<https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/mbse>.

The AD PAG MBSE team continues to refine collaboration methodologies, including the comparison of direct interfaces or integration between platforms. The benefits of using a neutral standard for collaboration should be considered. The supplier collaboration scenarios and methods are outlined as part of the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines and supplier engagement levels.

3.7.3. Digital Twin / Digital Thread (DTw / DTh)

Digital twin/thread standards are necessitating greater attention by standards organizations that support the A&D industry. This includes the recognition and willingness to address the continuity of the digital twin across the product lifecycle. The AD PAG Digital Twin/Thread team has noted that the following should be considered in the maturation of digital twin/thread standards:

- Revised definition and alignment of the digital twin/thread construct will continue as technology aligns with the functional and operational digital twin requirements.
- Interoperability between and composition of digital twins will require new standard types to be defined within the digital thread.
- Digital Product Authoritative Source is an emergent attribute of the digital thread. The digital thread will be required to support non-persistent and long-term data storage requirements.

The concept of digital twin/thread standards introduces the need for broad standardization of complex and rapidly changing business processes, system definition, and IT. This standardization will be needed to ensure that digital twin/thread data interoperability and data utilization complexities are minimized.

The emerging content provided by the AD PAG Digital Twin/Thread team can be downloaded at the following link: <https://www.cimdata.com/en/aerospace-and-defense/publications/digitaltwin-digitalthread>.

3.8. Enabling Digital Transformation through Collaboration

Years ago, most companies started to replace 2D drawings with 3D models, but this was only the first step. For a complete data-centric way of working, not only 3D models but other data such as the following needed to be included:

- MBSE (Requirements, Functional, Logical, and Physical (RFLP), logical and functional, behavioral model, V&V, etc.)
- Configurations, documentation, change management, IP, export control
- Dummy parts (IP and export control compliant model)
- Modeling and simulation (weights, loads, finite element method (FEM); light, acoustic noise, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), thermal, etc.)
- Electric (logic, formboard for manufacturing, etc.)
- Electronic (printed boards, chips, etc.)
- Software (product line engineering, source code, libraries, open source, etc.)
- Quality (first article inspection, statistical qualification, 3D measurement etc.)
- Customer technical publication (maintenance manuals, illustrated parts catalogue (IPC), spare parts, etc.)
- PMI (tolerances, material, surface requirements, quality standards, etc.)
- Archiving and retrieval (LOTAR)

Only with full interoperability and traceability across company borders can efficient collaboration that ensures IP protection, export control, etc. be enabled. (3D geometry envelopes, shrink wraps or similar could be an appropriate solution). Data is the new gold!

3.8.1. Digital Innovation Shaping the Industry

Digital innovation is reshaping the way most industries and businesses are functioning today. By 2030, current and legacy data, data collection, and analysis will be the basis of all future service offerings and business models. Robotics, augmented/virtual reality, sensor technology, internet of things (IoT), building information modeling systems, and other disruptive technologies are on the increase and must be considered.

In the future, digital information/data including tools/systems needs to be connected (i.e., to cover the whole lifecycle). Also, digital information needs to be clarified to support in-service aircraft data. This data requires regular updates supporting Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) or other in-service activities (e.g., derivative product creation). Existing data needs to be better structured and of good quality to reach these goals. A data-centric and model-based way of working is the enabler for a digital twin and for continuous data flow between different tools and across company borders and is essential for efficient collaboration.

Enhancing current and new disciplines must be taken into consideration (e.g., architecture/building information, jigs and tools, infrastructure, cranes, robots, power, water and waste, etc.) to establish a digital twin covering the entire lifecycle. The digital twin/thread should be a byproduct of a

global collaboration effort supported by continuous data streams. And the source data shared across organizations should be made available in a standard interoperable format to minimize data translation, re-creation, manipulation, and scanning.

3.8.2. Enabling Global Collaboration

To enable global collaboration, systems need to be connected and a strategy for the use of data defined. The data should be in easy-to-use formats with traceability between several systems and from requirements to behavioral models.

Going forward, RFLP, 3D models, BOM, Engineering Change Number (ECN), software and electronics, etc. must be considered. Examples of systems to manage this type of data include but are not limited to requirement management systems, MBSE, Application Lifecycle Management (ALM), PLM, and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP).

One of the benefits of global collaboration in the areas of modeling and simulation is the capability to reuse, recalculate, and regenerate reports and calculations rather than exchange obsolete PDF documents. The solution for easily sharing libraries (e.g., materials, standard parts) must be established.

3.8.3. Industry Data Standards Supporting Transformation

Open standards (e.g., STEP, JT, FMI, SSP, SysML) would enable, reaching the goal of digital transformation. In addition to that, close collaboration with several associations (e.g., PDES, prostep ivip, IDTA, IDSA, NAFEMS, INCOSE) should be improved, and close cooperation with standardization development organizations like ISO, IEC, OMG, Modelica, and SAE required. For more information about the standards, refer to Table 3 for the AD PAG Standards team's publications.

3.9. PLM Collaboration Solutions

The requirements of the PLM collaboration solution continue to evolve to include transformation elements such as:

- Data connection between multiple disciplines
- Multiple layers of application integration
- MBE, digital twin, and digital threads working together to significantly enhance collaboration throughout a product's lifecycle
- Model-based engineering – RFLP within the PLM environment
- Incorporation and utilization of standards
- Change control across the lifecycle
- Division of digital responsibility in a role-based environment
- Quality controls supporting improved data accuracy and integrity
- Superset of digital data enabling the digital thread and digital twin
- Data interoperability using industry standards

These new transformation elements can be supported through multiple PLM solutions. As has been described, multiple PLM solutions will be needed to continue support of the aerospace industry.

3.9.1. PLM Synchronous Systems (Application Layer)

The synchronous PLM collaboration solution would work in conjunction with industry CAD and data interchange standards. The collaboration solution provides the platform to ensure control, bi-directional communication/sharing, and standards that secure data compatibility. This concept supports the following examples of data exchange:

- The OEM provides an on-premises or cloud-based collaboration space to which the OEM–PLM workflow links to the source data content in a separate PLM. Once data is available, the solution notifies the supplier of availability and updates. Again, this approach offers bi-directional collaboration such that any format of source data from the supplier could be used to trigger a notification to the OEM. This use case can be reversed where the OEM has the source data and suppliers have a link to it from their PLM. This example’s applicable Engagement Level is EL3b shown in the *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels* section.
- The PLM infrastructure allows one collaborative workspace for multiple communities or projects. This approach requires a network connection to the PLM environment, which can be challenging depending on the policies and procedures of the OEM and/or supplier. In this use case the OEM and the supplier share a common PLM environment where source data is hosted. This example’s applicable Engagement Levels are EL3b and EL4 shown in the *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels* section 3.6.

3.9.2. PLM Asynchronous Systems (Application Layer)

The asynchronous PLM collaboration solution works in conjunction with industry CAD and data interchange standards. However, it involves manual intervention and is not optimal for concurrent product development. This type of collaboration is typical of sequential transfer, which can lead to data distribution and consumption delays.

The asynchronous type of global collaboration supports the following examples of data exchange:

- Consider a supplier (i.e., one that is manufacturing the product in accordance with the OEM’s engineering data and specifications). This is sometimes known as *the make-to-print model*. The engineering data is the drawing or model, and it references multiple specifications and standards to enable compliant manufacture. This example’s applicable Engagement Level is EL1 shown in the *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels* section 3.6.
- The combination of engineering data, specifications, models, standards, and extended content must also be managed across the collaboration solution and the product definition. Manufacture of the product in this scenario is typically by a design supplier where collaboration occurs between primes and sub-tiers, with primes off-loading partial content to the sub-tiers. This approach offers bi-directional data movement from OEM to supplier and from supplier to OEM, which is particularly useful during early product development when considering producibility.

This example’s applicable Engagement Levels are EL2 and EL3a shown in the *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels* section 3.6.

3.9.3. PLM Engineering Data Interoperability (Product Lifecycle)

A fully PLM integrated system establishes rules across company borders supporting an approach that requires the following prerequisites to be established:

- Data ownership
- How to update and maintain the data
- Identify and access management:
 - User management
 - Merger and re-organization
 - Linking information available for traceability of part’s history to keep track of it
- Data security and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

Some of the key advantages of PLM integrated systems (examples shown below) are the avoidance of uncontrolled, non-current, and redundant copies of data, and they allow partners to use their own tools and internal methodologies.

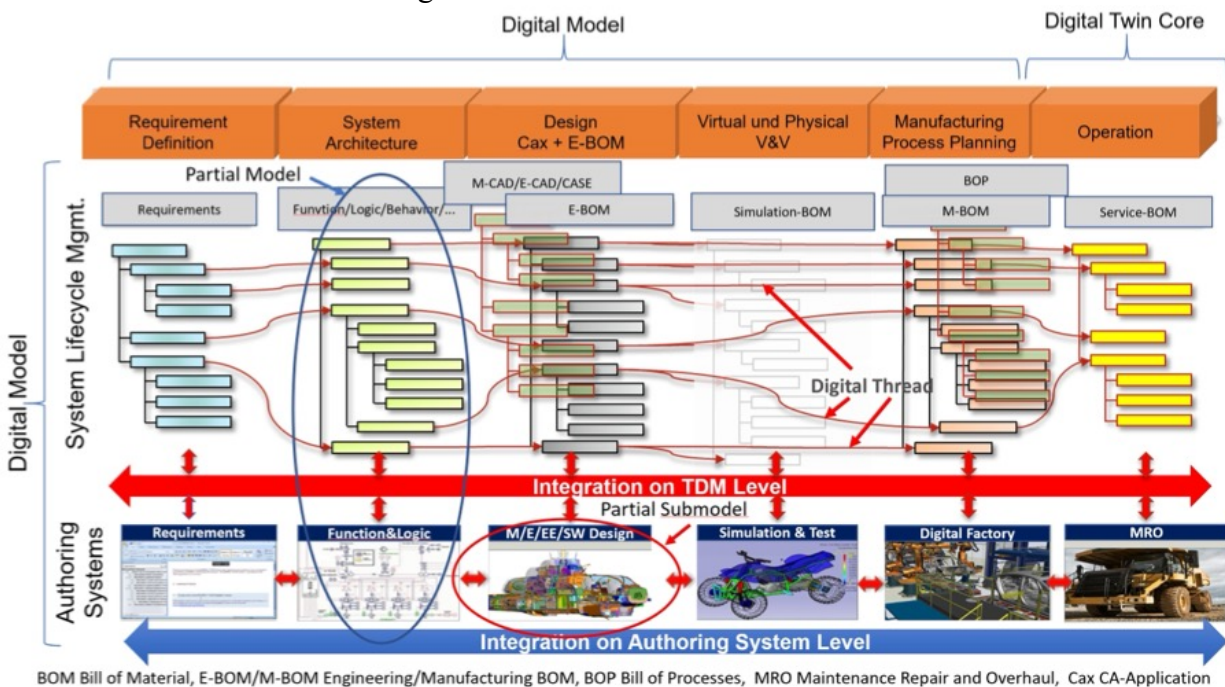


Figure 19 – Engineering Lifecycle Data Model (Eigner, Martin)

<https://eigner-ec.com/2017/11/06/plm-quo-vadis/>

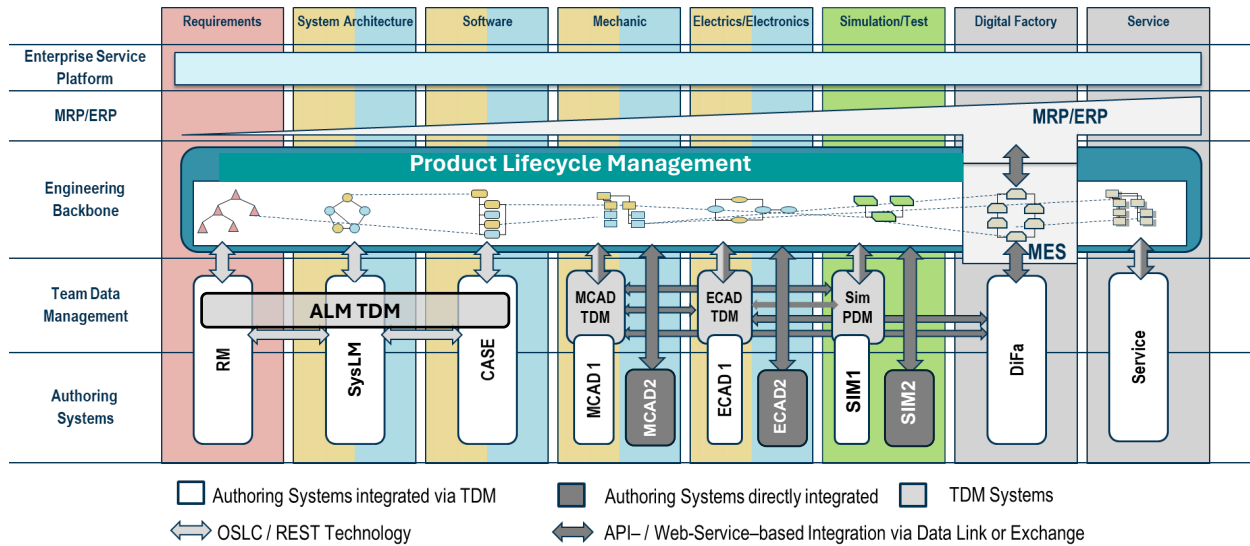


Figure 20 – Theoretical Approach to Multi-Level IT Architecture (Eigner, Martin)

<https://eigner-ec.com/2017/11/08/das-industrial-internet-engineering-prozesse-und-it-loesungen/>

3.10. Vendor Software Evolution to Support Global Collaboration

Based on the AD PAG Global Collaboration team's input, it seems certain that enabling the following capabilities in vendor systems will enhance the global collaboration process. The request is that systems providers implement the following requirements to augment and strengthen the global collaboration process:

- Systems must provide a change management service for reviewing, scheduling, tracking, incorporating, and ensuring visibility of customer enhancement requests
- Systems must allow access and synchronization with other PLM systems and with other connected systems
- Systems Application Program Interfaces (APIs) must support integration with other systems and facilitate collaboration
- Systems must provide user-friendly and customizable interfaces
- Systems must provide for industry standard neutral file interoperability
- Systems utilizing industry neutral file interoperability must show support of the capability of V&V between the source and the neutral format
- Systems must work to incorporate and adhere to the latest industry standards
- Systems must support the collaboration standards. Refer to Table 2 in the *Collaboration Standards* section

- Systems must support a data-centric approach to ensure traceability and digital continuity
- Systems must support libraries containing additional meta data. (i.e., standard part, material specifications, mass properties, IP, etc.)
- Software providers must ensure compatibility between releases
- When a new version of software is issued, the vendors must implement the process that updates all the shared data

3.11. Summary

The goal of this paper is to move the aerospace industry toward optimized global collaboration. The ideal solution is federated systems and is a huge challenge that requires greater openness between PLM software providers. This may be achievable in the future but necessitates new levels of technology. Until then multiple tools and systems, including legacy systems, will remain active requiring close integration between systems, and they must be as open as possible.

The focus points addressed are as follows:

1. No redundant copies are generated and only references to centralized standard part libraries within the collaborating systems
2. Part definition is becoming more than 3D data and drawings; new data types/formats are required by the new evolving initiatives, such as MBD, MBE, digital twin, digital thread, MBSE, and quality assurance, and must be supported to ensure end-to-end collaboration
3. The tools must not be a barrier to collaboration; each partner must be able to use their own PLM or CAD system and be able to integrate data or models from another system with minimum conversion and validation (e.g., CATIA model versus Unigraphics/NX model or between two different PLM software systems, such as ENOVIA and Teamcenter)
4. Processes and tools for validation conversion (CAD, Data base, meta data, Units, PMI, etc.) must be available and agreed upon for each collaboration program
5. Specifications and reporting of the impacts of changes to the processes and/or definition must be fluid, transparent, and traceable; feedback loops must be available to be capture, document, and communicate lessons learned
6. The digital transformation must allow innovation with tools that are able to integrate the benefits of these innovations to optimize global collaboration
7. Engagement with software providers must occur to develop a process that allows automatic updates of shared data
8. Consistent adoption and implementation of common, agreed upon standards used specifically with each collaboration project/program
9. Coordination amongst AD PAG teams should be increased
10. Promote Standard Numbering System (SNS) numbering identification to facilitate data management from requirements to maintenance manuals

3.12. Conclusions

Technology, requirements, and capabilities have evolved, and the amount of data required for global collaboration has increased to meet those demands. Adjustments have already been made to accommodate the evolution. For example, initially defined supplier engagement levels did not meet the new enhanced requirements. Therefore, the supplier engagement levels were redefined and are included in the *Importance of Supplier Engagement Levels* section to capture the new technology and requirements. Additional enhancements, automation, and changes will be needed in the future. AI was out of this position paper's scope, but AI advancements are coming fast. In the future, there may be benefits of incorporating AI into global collaboration tools and processes.

Awareness of the complexity of collaboration across the PLM process, inclusive of Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) and ERP systems, is key to supporting collaboration across organizations within OEMs and suppliers. Recognizing that the PLM application level where parts and BOM are managed in relationship of the PLM process will help organizations with standardizing and implementing the bigger PLM process. System-to-systems mappings describing the architecture of the global collaboration systems must identify internal and external integrations supporting the bigger view of the PLM system.

Resistance to implementing new tools and processes that capture the latest innovations is natural. To overcome this resistance, a cultural change/shift must be initiated. The AD PAG Global Collaboration team addressed how to manage the culture change to optimize collaboration.

The previous release 2.0/2.1 provided an overview of the AD PAG 8-Step Guidelines, including the CMS collaboration tool available to the aerospace industry in support of guidelines deployment. The team detailed each of the 8-steps in this new release 3.0 to provide a clear consistent method while supporting engagement between businesses and creating an interoperable collaboration platform.

After reviewing presentations of other AD PAG team initiatives, the Global Collaboration team noticed that the others were specifying data requirements and, in some cases, data exchange. These requirements and exchanges should be addressed following the AD PAG Global Collaboration 8-Step Guidelines.

Ultimately the AD PAG collaboration team defined requirements for the PLM and systems providers. These requirements will augment and strengthen Global Collaboration.

4. Go Forward Plan

This document completes the AD PAG Global Collaboration team's effort of publishing the Global Collaboration position paper series (Edition 1.0, 2.0/2.1, and now 3.0) and closes Phase 3 of the project. In Phase 4, the team will collect feedback from software vendors and the industry about collaboration capabilities. The team will provide gap analysis related to the collaboration requirements presented in Phase 3.

5. About A&D PLM Action Group

The Aerospace & Defense PLM Action Group (www.ad-pag.com) is an association of aerospace OEMs and aircraft engine providers within CIMdata's globally recognized PLM Community Program, which functions as a *PLM advocacy group* to:

- Set the direction for the aerospace & defense industry on PLM-related topics that matter to members (*including promoting, not duplicating, the work of standards bodies*)
- Promote common industry PLM processes and practices
- Define requirements for common interest PLM-related capabilities
- Communicate with a unified voice to PLM solution providers
- Sponsor collaborative PLM research on prioritized industry and technology topics

CIMdata administers Group operations, coordinates research, and manages the progression of policy formulation.

6. About CIMdata

CIMdata, an independent worldwide firm, provides strategic management consulting to maximize an enterprise's ability to design, deliver, and support innovative products and services by identifying and implementing appropriate digital initiatives. For nearly forty years, CIMdata has provided industrial organizations and providers of technologies and services with world-class knowledge, expertise, and best-practice methods on a broad set of product lifecycle management (PLM) solutions and the digital transformation they enable. CIMdata also offers research, subscription services, publications, and education through certificate programs and international conferences. To learn more, visit www.CIMdata.com or email info@CIMdata.com.

7. References

Eigner, Martin, System Lifecycle Management - Engineering Digitalization (Engineering 4.0), Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH, part of Springer Nature 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-33874-9>

Appendix A: Solution Concepts

This appendix provides examples of current exchange solutions and concepts considered by the Global Collaboration team during the content authoring of this paper. The following are some solutions considered to be collaborative communities:

With a PLM System

- Same PLM solution provider but not connected
- Same PLM solution provider connected
- Same PLM solution provider but not connected and a different software level (CAD and/or PLM)
- Same PLM solution provider connected and a different software level (CAD and/or PLM)
- PLM to PLM
- PLM to cloud to PLM
- PLM to cloud to supplier without PLM
- Supplier direct access to PLM via web portal
- Neutral PLM formats and multi-CAD conversion
- Use of different PLM systems (Existing Method)
- Different PLM solution communities/collaboration/interaction requirements

Without a PLM System

- Point-to-point data exchange
- One collaborative shared workspace for all communities involved

Hybrid

- PLM to non-PLM system
- Supplier direct access to PLM via web portal

The following graphics illustrate some of the PLM solutions considered.

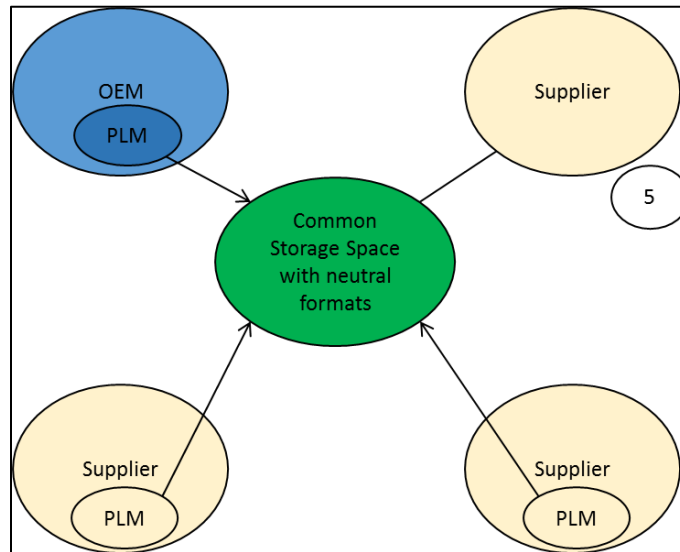


Figure 21 – Common Data Source

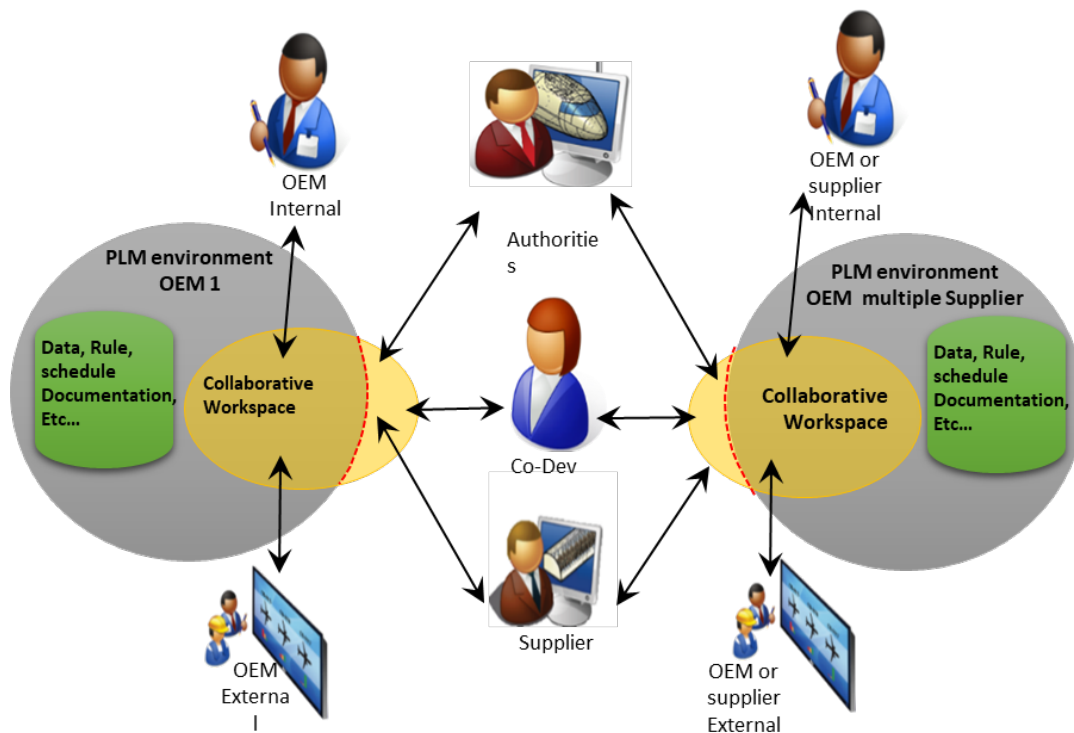


Figure 22 – Multiple Collaborative Workspaces for Multiple Communities and/or Projects

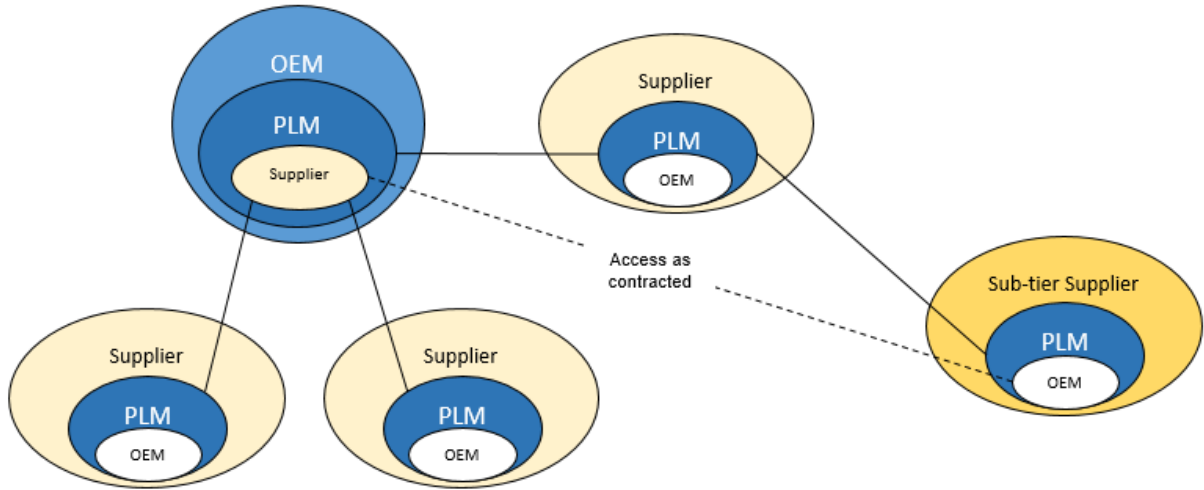


Figure 23 – Common PLM System (Same PLM Solution)

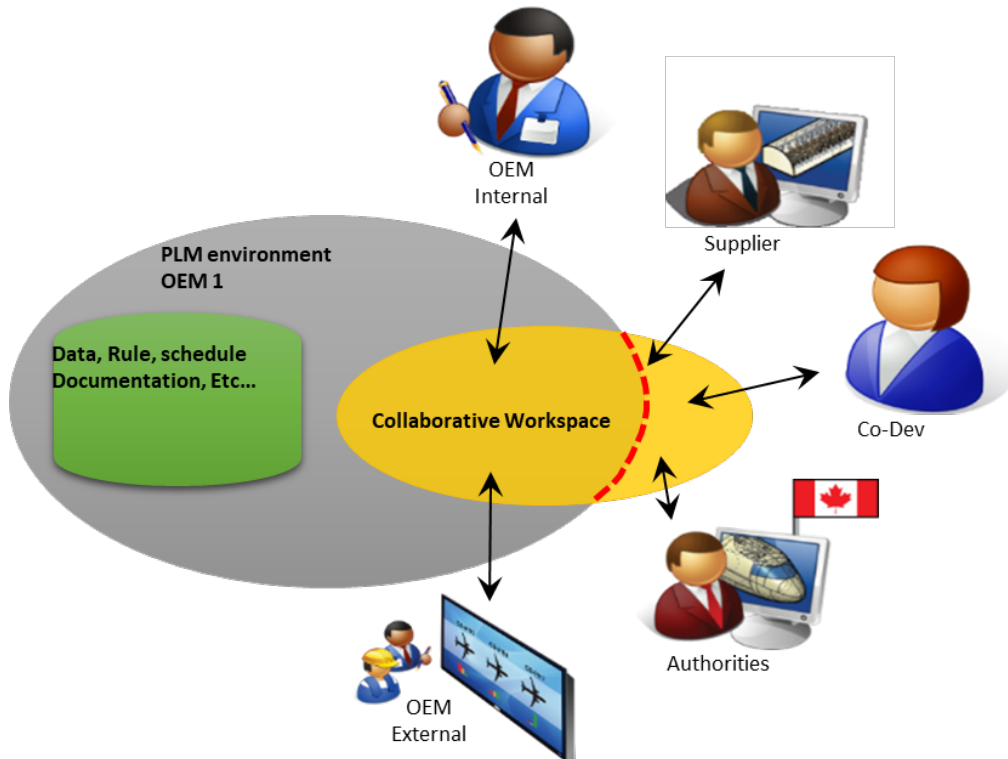


Figure 24 – OEM PLM Hosted Collaborative Shared Workspace

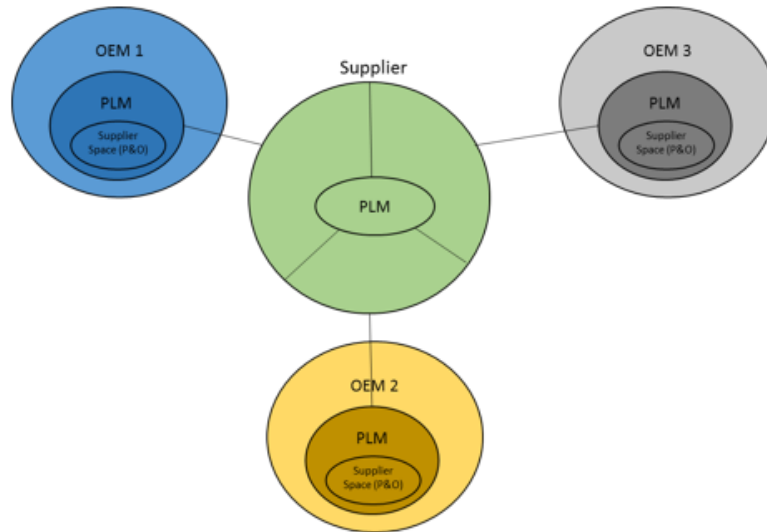


Figure 25 – Supplier Paradigm Working with Multiple OEM PLMs

Appendix B: AD PAG Collaboration Guidelines Checklist

Step	Global Collaboration Team Guidelines for AD PAG	Status
1	Prepare for Collaboration and Data Exchange	
1.1	Define Type and Scope of Data	
1.2	Define Recommended Way of Collaboration	
1.3	Define Recommended Project Management Terminology and Tool Set	
1.4	Define IP-Compliant Process	
1.5	Assess Collaboration Capability	
1.6	Supplier Selection Announced	
1.7	Data Collaboration Agreement	
1.8	Audit and Follow-Up	
2	Establish Commercial, Contractual, and Legal Relationships	
2.1	Define Data Exchange Rules and Processes	
2.2	Define Project Management Terms	
2.3	Monitor and Manage Contract Execution and Contractual Coverage of	
2.4	Anticipate and Mitigate Contractual Risks	
2.5	Amend the Contract	
2.6	Manage the Contract Expiration and Close and Terminate the Contract	
3	Set Up Governance	
3.1	Establish Import/Export Guidelines	
3.2	Determine Intellectual Property (IP)	
3.3	Implement Security Protocol(s)	
3.4	Protect Personal Identifiable Information	
3.5	Conduct Collaboration Platform Review(s)	
4	Establish Project Management	
4.1	Supply Chain Management	
4.2	Authority Delegation	
4.3	Planning and measuring	
4.4	Risk Analysis	
5	Set Up Interfaces and Organization	
5.1	Nominate Focal Points	
5.2	Provide Access	
5.3	Define a Support System	
6	Set Up Collaboration Environment for Program Life	
6.1	Preparation	
6.2	Initialization	
6.3	Operation	
7	Conduct the Program Review(s)	

Step	Global Collaboration Team Guidelines for AD PAG	Status
7.1	Prepare the Optimized Program Review	
7.2	Conduct the Program Review	
7.3	Follow Up and Close the Program Review	
8	Perform End State Tasks	
8.1	Review Data for Archiving	
8.2	Archive the Data	
8.3	Decommission the Program/Project Collaboration Space	

Appendix C: ISO 44001 Assessment Checklist⁵

Stage	ISO 44001 Collaboration Stages	Status
1	Operational Awareness	
1.1	General	
1.2	Duties of Senior Executive Responsible (SER)	
1.3	Application and validation of operational governance structure	
1.4	Identification of operational objectives and value	
1.5	Establishment of value analysis process	
1.6	Identification and prioritization of collaborative business relationships	
1.7	Development of competencies and behavior	
1.8	Initial risk assessment	
1.9	Establishment of the RMP (Relationship Management Plan)	
2	Knowledge	
2.1	General	
2.2	Strategy and business case	
2.3	Identification of key individuals' competence and behavior	
2.4	Knowledge management	
2.5	Supply chain and extended enterprise risks and opportunities	
2.6	Implementation of risk management process	
2.7	Evaluation of the business case	
2.8	Incorporation of knowledge into the RMP	
3	Internal Assessment	
3.1	General	
3.2	Capability and environment for collaboration	
3.3	Assessment of strengths and weaknesses	
3.4	Assessment of collaborative profile	
3.5	Appointment of collaborative leadership	
3.6	Definition of partner selection criteria	
3.7	Implementation of the RMP	
4	Partner Selection	
4.1	General	
4.2	Nomination of potential collaborative partners	
4.3	Partner evaluation and selection	
4.4	Development of engagement and negotiation strategy for collaboration	
4.5	Initial engagement with potential partners	
4.6	Assessment of joint objectives	
4.7	Assessment of joint exit strategy	

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Stage	ISO 44001 Collaboration Stages	Status
4.8	Selection of preferred partners	
4.9	Initiation of joint RMP	
5	Working Together	
5.1	General	
5.2	Establishment of the joint governance structure	
5.3	Joint knowledge management process	
5.4	Establish joint risk management process	
5.5	Operational process and systems review	
5.6	Measurement of delivery and performance	
5.7	Improvement of organizational collaborative competence	
5.8	Establishment of a joint issue resolution process	
5.9	Establishment of a joint exit strategy	
5.10	Agreements or contracting arrangements	
5.11	Establishment and implementation of the joint RMP	
6	Value Creation	
6.1	General	
6.2	Establishment of the value creation process	
6.3	Identification of improvement and setting of targets	
6.4	Use of learning from experience	
6.5	Updating of the joint RMP	
7	Staying Together	
7.1	General	
7.2	Oversight by the SERs	
7.3	Management of the joint relationship	
7.4	Implementation of monitoring of behavior and trust indicators	
7.5	Continual value creation	
7.6	Delivery of joint objectives	
7.7	Analysis of results	
7.8	Issue resolution	
7.9	Maintenance of the joint exit strategy	
7.10	Maintenance of the joint RMP	
8	Exit Strategy Activation	
8.1	General	
8.2	Initiation of disengagement	
8.3	Business continuity	
8.4	Evaluation of the relationship	
8.5	Future opportunities	
8.6	Review and updating of the RMPs	

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Appendix D: ISO and AD PAG Comparison

Stage	ISO 44001 Collaboration Stages	A&D	Step	Global Collaboration Team Guidelines for A&D	ISO
1	Operational Awareness		1	Prepare for Collaboration and Data Exchange	
1.1	General		1.1	Define Type and Scope of Data	1.4
1.2	Duties of Senior Executive Responsible (SER)		1.2	Define Recommended Way of Collaboration	1.9/3.5/3.6
1.3	Application and validation of operational governance structure	3	1.3	Define Recommended Project Management Terminology and Tool Set	
1.4	Identification of operational objectives and value	1.1	1.4	Define IP-Compliant Process	2.2/4.6/5.2
1.5	Establishment of value analysis process		1.5	Assess Collaboration Capability	1.5/3.2/3.4/4.3
1.6	Identification and prioritization of collaborative business relationships	1.5	1.6	Supplier Selection Announced	4.2/4.5/4.8
1.7	Development of competencies and behavior		1.7	Data Collaboration Agreement	3.7
1.8	Initial risk assessment	2.4/4.4	1.8	Audit and Follow-Up	5.6
1.9	Establishment of the RMP (Relationship Management Plan)	1.2	2	Establish Commercial, Contractual, and Legal Relationships	
2	Knowledge		2.1	Define Data Exchange Rules and Processes	2.5
2.1	General		2.2	Define Project Management Terms	2.2/4.6/5.2
2.2	Strategy and business case	2.2	2.3	Monitor and Manage Contract Execution and Contractual Coverage of Evolution Requests	4.4
2.3	Identification of key individuals' competence and behavior		2.4	Anticipate and Mitigate Contractual Risks	1.8
2.4	Knowledge management		2.5	Amend the Contract	5.1
2.5	Supply chain and extended enterprise risks and opportunities	2.1/4.1	2.6	Manage the Contract Expiration and Close and Terminate the Contract	4.7
2.6	Implementation of risk management process	4.4	3	Set Up Governance	1.3/5
2.7	Evaluation of the business case	2.2	3.1	Establish Import/Export Guidelines	
2.8	Incorporation of knowledge into the RMP		3.2	Determine Intellectual Property (IP)	
3	Internal Assessment		3.3	Implement Security Protocol(s)	
3.1	General		3.4	Protect Personal Identifiable Information	
3.2	Capability and environment for collaboration	1.5	3.5	Conduct Collaboration Platform Review(s)	5.8
3.3	Assessment of strengths and weaknesses		4	Establish Project Management	5
3.4	Assessment of collaborative profile	1.5	4.1	Supply Chain Management	2.5
3.5	Appointment of collaborative leadership	1.2	4.2	Authority Delegation	1.1
3.6	Definition of partner selection criteria	1.2	4.3	Planning and measuring	1.9, 5.6
3.7	Implementation of the RMP	1.7	4.4	Risk Analysis	1.8/2.6/5.4
4	Partner Selection		5	Set Up Interfaces and Organization	5
4.1	General		5.1	Nominate Focal Points	1.2, 4.2, 5
4.2	Nomination of potential collaborative partners	1.6	5.2	Provide Access	5.1
4.3	Partner evaluation and selection	1.5	5.3	Define a Support System	5.1
4.4	Development of engagement and negotiation strategy for collaboration	2.3	6	Set Up Collaboration Environment for Program Life	5, 7
4.5	Initial engagement with potential partners	1.6	6.1	Preparation	5, 7
4.6	Assessment of joint objectives	2.2	6.2	Initialization	5, 7
4.7	Assessment of joint exit strategy	2.6	6.3	Operation	5, 7
4.8	Selection of preferred partners	1.6	7	Conduct the Program Review(s)	5, 7
4.9	Initiation of joint RMP		7.1	Prepare the Optimized Program Review	5, 7
5	Working Together	3/4/5/6	7.2	Conduct the Program Review	5, 7
5.1	General		7.3	Follow Up and Close the Program Review	5, 7
5.2	Establishment of the joint governance structure	2.2	8	Perform End State Tasks	8
5.3	Joint knowledge management process		8.1	Review Data for Archiving	8
5.4	Establish joint risk management process	4.4	8.2	Archive the Data	8
5.5	Operational process and systems review	7.1	8.3	Decommission the Program/Project Collaboration Space	8
5.6	Measurement of delivery and performance	1.8			
5.7	Improvement of organizational collaborative competence			No equivalent item on other checklist	
5.8	Establishment of a joint issue resolution process	3.5			
5.9	Establishment of a joint exit strategy	8			
5.10	Agreements or contracting arrangements	2.3			
5.11	Establishment and implementation of the joint RMP	2.3			
6	Value Creation				
6.1	General				
6.2	Establishment of the value creation process				
6.3	Identification of improvement and setting of targets				
6.4	Use of learning from experience				
6.5	Updating of the joint RMP				
7	Staying Together				
7.1	General	1.1			
7.2	Oversight by the SEFRs	1.8			
7.3	Management of the joint relationship	2.3			
7.4	Implementation of monitoring of behavior and trust indicators	1.8			
7.5	Continual value creation				
7.6	Delivery of joint objectives	1.1, 1.2, 1.7			
7.7	Analysis of results	1.8, 7.2			
7.8	Issue resolution	7.2			
7.9	Maintenance of the joint exit strategy	7.3			
7.10	Maintenance of the joint RMP	6.3			
8	Exit Strategy Activation	8			
8.1	General				
8.2	Initiation of disengagement	8.3			
8.3	Business continuity	8.2			
8.4	Evaluation of the relationship				
8.5	Future opportunities				
8.6	Review and updating of the RMPs				