
Editorial

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With the emerging challenging opportunities the information technologies bring to assist the management of the organisations in the advent of new global industrial environments, companies can no longer manage Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) phases on their own. To continue to be competitive, they are obliged to develop partnerships, establish industrial clusters, and embrace cooperative methods of work.

To keep its competitiveness, the industry need to rapidly meet the new requirements in the e-global marketplace, and promptly push the industrial companies to adopt e-business services and networked enterprise practices. International cooperation is a requirement to achieve the objectives, supported by research and development on standards, methodologies, and open technology that needs global understanding and acceptance, requiring cooperation and harmonisation of work from heterogeneous stakeholders.

However, due to the lack of sound methodologies, skilled infrastructures and interoperable standards for enterprise modelling and product data exchange, there is not yet a common view on how to help the industry towards globalisation in PLM, concerning stable electronic-based relationships and integrated business with supplier, distributor, and customer chains.

This special issue presents original, application-oriented research papers that show new trends in and options for the use of information and communication technology in industry, integrating different technology fields and application areas in the broad area of computer-applications for PLM.

The authors of selected papers were invited to contribute to this special issue of the International Journal of Product Lifecycle Management (IJPLM). Thus, five research papers were chosen to be published in the journal, presenting to the scientific and industrial communities ideas and results contributing for the advance in the knowledge and research aspects of PLM.

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