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New PLM Options At Hand

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Existing software providers in the product lifecycle management (PLM) space are beefing up their products to address the continuing product development needs of the manufacturing community.

PTC, www.ptc.com, Needham, Mass., announced the release of Windchill 7.0. This solution provides better flexibility and seamless integration of its collaborative capabilities on a common Internet architecture.

The most innovative function to this new release is the fact that engineers can selectively and securely collaborate while remaining connected to the formal product development management (PDM) system. This is due to the ability for users to share select information from the PDM capabilities into secure, self-administered Web collaboration spaces where it is available to other users, via a Web browser.

The release became available to customers at the end of December and already has strong support in the manufacturing industry.

"We applaud PTC's product direction for Windchill 7.0 to provide a seamless user and data environment across Windchill PDMLink and Windchill ProjectLink," says Dan Shoenhair, director and engineering business manager for sports equipment producer Ping, Phoenix, Ariz., www.pinggolf.com. "This will enable us to provide controlled access of product data to our suppliers; being able to collaborate with our suppliers securely is very important to our business."

Newly formed Renaissance Services, Dayton, Ohio, www.ren-services.com, provides specialized PLM capabilities to manufacturers in the aerospace and defense sector and has already signed a contract with Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, Ariz, www.honeywellaerospace.com.

The mission for the new company is to address a growing demand in the A&D space for companies to improve their processes for transitioning products from design to manufacturing. By improving methods for flowing requirements to the supply chain, companies can increase development initiatives.

"The leading organizations recognize that there isn't a single software company that can provide all of the tools necessary to implement PLM," says Dan Sokol, CEO of Renaissance Services. "We've teamed with a number of emerging software companies to address a selected niche within PLM, which enables us to deliver near-term value to our customers."

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