

QUALITY DRIVE

Today's automotive manufacturers are under increasing pressure to improve their quality and on-time delivery. Siemens' Quality Management System, IBS QMS, helps them achieve this

CONTRIBUTOR **SIEMENS PLM SOFTWARE**

In just over a decade's time, over half of all new cars built will be destined for markets across Asia. Couple that with the fact that a third of automotive professionals believe that regulations around the globe are hindering current car manufacturing plans, and it's clear that today's automotive manufacturers are facing an unprecedented challenge.

Consumers, as well, are becoming increasingly picky. Already this year, over 600 different models of vehicle – cars, vans and motorcycles – have been recalled in the UK.

On top of this, increasing model differentiation, new vehicle and production concepts and shorter production runs per model are also dominating today's automobile market.

For automotive OEMs around the world, this means that expenses need to be trimmed and costs must be reduced effectively – decisive measures in a market characterised by intense global competition and high levels of segmentation. Short development cycles and response times have been given top priority in the drive for success and competitiveness amongst automotive OEMs. But these goals are extremely difficult to achieve without innovative, high performance IT technologies.

Quality is also a key driver for already under-pressure supply chains – the cost of a recall could cause an unbearable financial burden on suppliers; not to mention the reputational damage they could suffer.

The easiest and most reliable way for the automotive industry to optimise quality is to maximise their process reliability, traceability and compliance with international standards. Siemens' Quality Management software IBS QMS can help.

IBS QMS allows users to detect risks and failures in design and manufacturing, initiate problem-solving and continuously improve their product and manufacturing process. With the collection of quality data from design and production, users are able to initiate the problem-solving process to improve their product and manufacturing processes in a sustainable way.

"Managing quality globally and interdisciplinary across the entire product life cycle and supply chain requires process reliability, traceability and compliance," says Raffaello Lepratti, Vice President Business Development and Marketing at Siemens PLM Software MOM. "Many of our customers understand the importance of this and use Siemens IBS QMS software – integrated within the Siemens MOM/PLM software suite – to detect risks and failures in design and manufacturing, initiate problem solving and continuously improve their product and

manufacturing processes. This closed loop model enables continuous improvement throughout an entire organisation."

Quality planning starts during the design phase of the product's lifecycle, and allows process optimisation to take place.

This then leads to quality control, which is a constant through the entire manufacturing process – measurable production targets are necessary to achieve quality targets. The final stage is quality utilisation, where information is exchanged between customers and suppliers to provide input into the product's manufacturing and design.

"For manufacturers, especially those in the automotive sector, a reliable quality control system is vital to meet the challenges of the modern industry. Siemens' IBS QMS helps take the hassle out of this, ensuring targets are



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Raffaello Lepratti, Siemens PLM Software

met and quality is ensured through the entire manufacturing process", concludes Lepratti.

Siemens is championing a holistic approach to manufacturing by delivering state-of-the-art, seamless technology for the entire enterprise. Siemens' Digital Enterprise Software Suite covers all major Industry 4.0 requirements. It enables manufacturers to realise closed loop manufacturing and closed loop quality strategies within the framework of its Digital Enterprise vision.

IBS QMS solutions from Siemens PLM Software are an integral part of Siemens' vision in the realisation of the Digital Enterprise. 

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