The Basics

What was the motivation?
- Internationalization, competition and distributed locations, as well as the trend towards Simultaneous Engineering and Outsourcing require harmonized solutions within the field of product data technology
- Development and manufacturing depth decrease at the OEM side
- Suppliers are more and more integrated into the development process, thus offering enormous potential in the small and medium enterprises’ role as development partners
- Increasing product complexity and a growing data exchange volume are a challenge for suppliers in the automotive industry
- New communication technologies provide any information at any work station
- In order to reduce costs, speed up data exchange, accelerate product development and shorten lead times an efficient collaborative product development process is crucial
- The goal is cost efficient and fast Engineering Collaboration

The Project

The uniqueness of the PDTnet approach:
- a powerful user driven project involving major players from the European automotive industry
- joint proceeding of partners which leads to reduced implementation and customization efforts for future projects and exchange partners
- using well established standards (ISO 10303 STEP AP214, XML), their broad application for PDM integration
- attending to processes, implementation technologies and data
- connecting product data technology and web-based communication technology
- providing a common infrastructure in heterogeneous processes and system environments
- achieving universally applicable results in order to establish real standards combining the approaches “online access on external PDM systems” and “offline exchange of structure data”
The Methods

How did the project realize its goals?

- Joint development of methods and tools for product data exchange and integration
- Improvement of data quality through harmonized processes and standards
- Use of standards and Internet technology, that allows access to information independent of locations
- Warranty of data security by using ENX®

The Results

After three years of successful collaboration a number of achieved results is publicly available. You may find them at www.pdtnet.org.

- White Paper for PDM Implementation: use cases and scenarios, technical approaches and recommendations for PDM integration derived from the results and experiences of the PDTnet project and other projects
- ENX Best Practices: collection of experiences for the use of ENX® for PDM integration
- White Paper for PDTnet Authorization and Security Concepts: description of authorized access to PDM systems and security concepts developed within the project
- PDNet XML Schema: defined XML schema description for neutral product data communication based on ISO 10303 STEP AP214
- Prototype of a Neutral Web Client: available through the PDTnet demonstration server at www.pdtnet.org