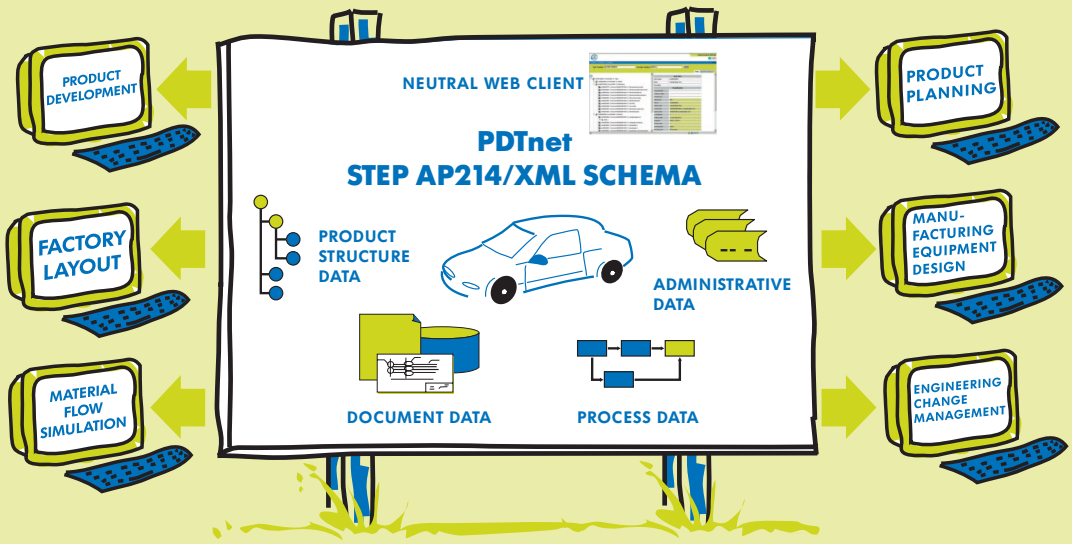
PDTnet Project
Product Data Technology and Communication in an OEM and Supplier Network

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
- looking at cross-functional and cross-organizational solutions
- 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"

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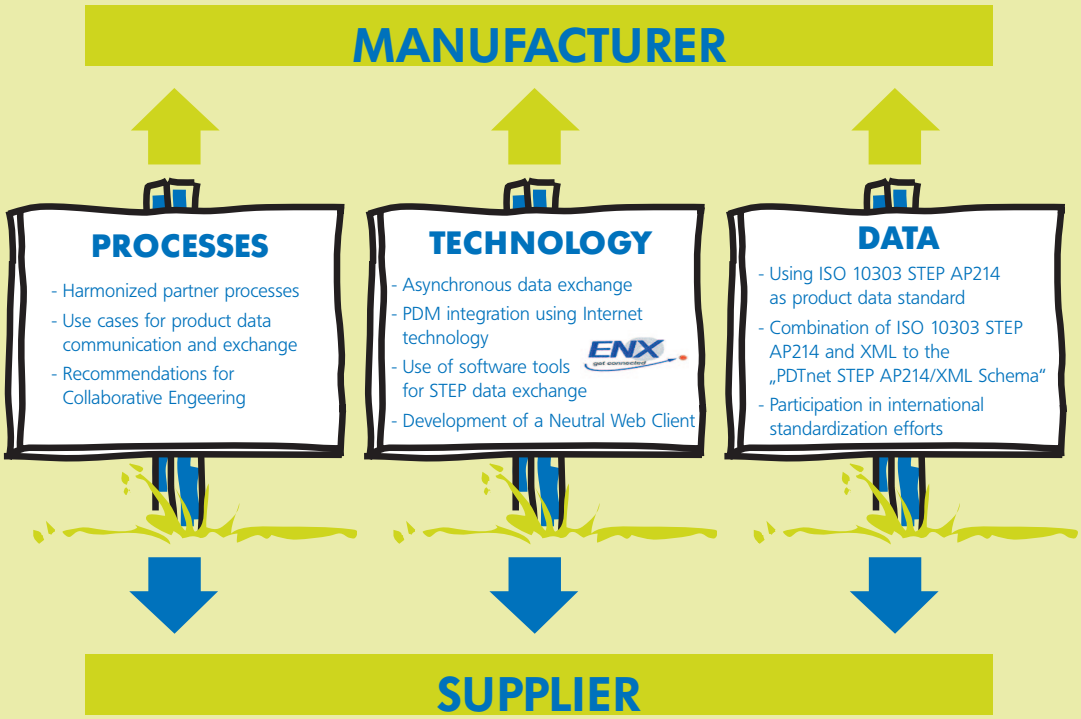
The Methods

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
- **PDTnet XML Schema:** defined XML schema description for neutral product data communication based on ISO 10303 STEP AP214
- **PDTnet Implementation Guide:** description of functional and information range, implementation concepts and examples for the PDTnet ISO 10303 STEP AP214/XML Schema
- **Prototype of a Neutral Web Client:** available through the PDTnet demonstration server at **www.pdtnet.org**

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