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Welcome

This is the first newsletter of a series that will inform on the progress with the DEPUIS Project - one of the projects within the EUROPE INNOVA Network.

The topics covered within this edition include:

- Aims and objectives of DEPUIS.
- Introduction to product data technology.
- Review of progress.
- Partner profile.
- Schedule of coming events.

DEPUIS should be of value to: engineers and their managers; environmental consultants and SME advisors; software developers, who are wanting to reduce the overall impact on the environment of their products and processes and who want to develop their expertise to contribute to a sustainable world.

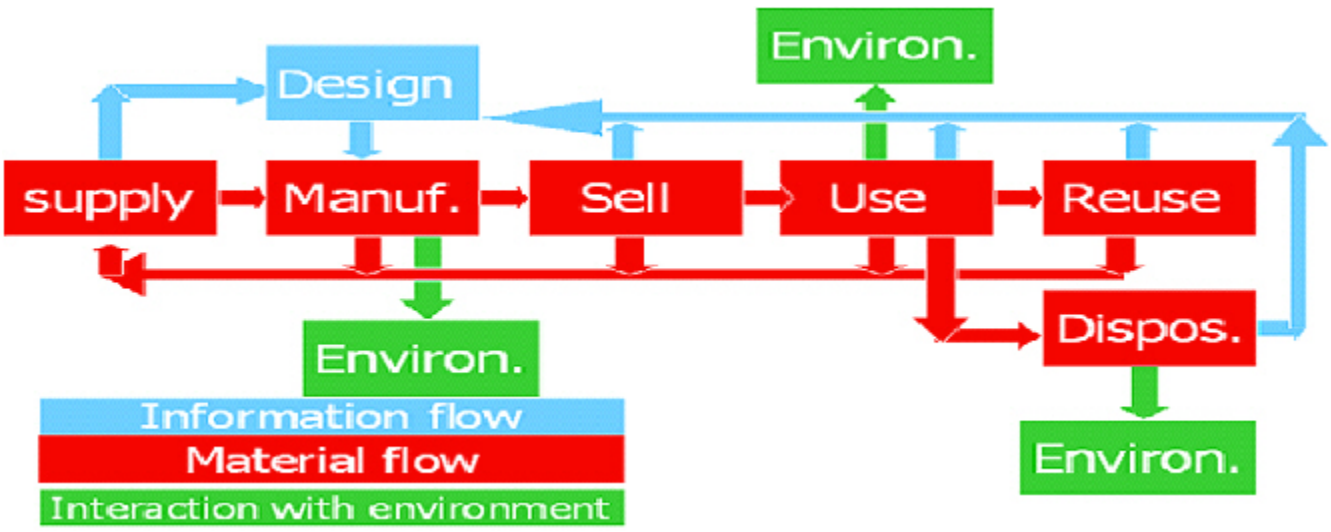
DEPUIS - Design of Environmentally friendly Products Using Information Standards

The objective of DEPUIS is to improve the design of new products and processes by the use of standards to provide life-cycle information in computerised form.

The project has two main actions:

- providing e-learning courses via the Internet for the product data technologies and their standards developed by ISO Technical Committee 184/SC4;
- workshops for interaction between the users of the courses and the developers of the standards to speed up the acceptance and application of the new technologies.

The strategic objective is to enable more companies, particularly SMEs, to use Life-cycle Thinking on the environmental impact of the design of new products and processes in conformance to the Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP) of the European Commission. Eco-innovation relies on information from many different sources and will require standardisation to ensure that it can be used and understood by different computer systems. The figure below shows the information flows and the impacts on the environment throughout the product life-cycle.

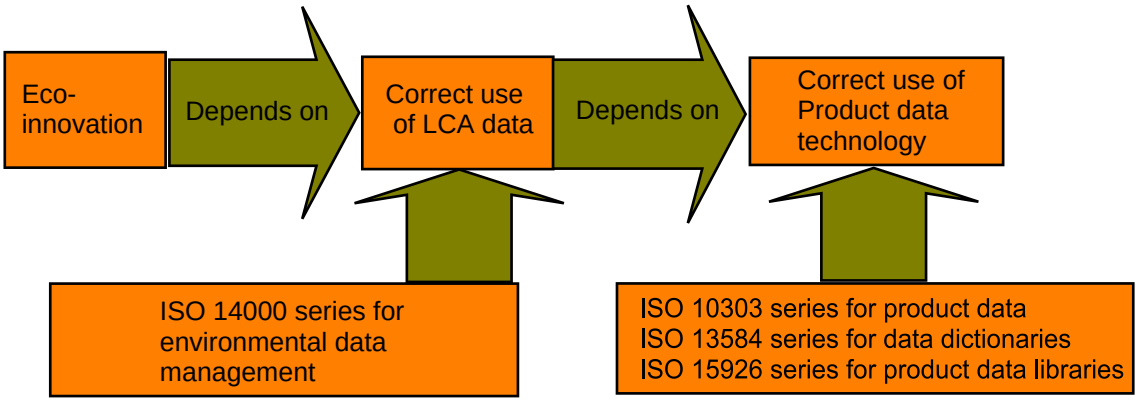


Product data technology

Product data technology - standards to enable the computerised representations of information for products, processes and their properties that are independent of any proprietary computer system or software application. These standards are effectively engineering specifications to support the communication of product data between different computer systems both within and between enterprises and support a supply chain for product information. The standard product data models are designed to integrate the necessary information about materials used in the product, even as the product changes through its life, so that such information can be accessed and used at any point in the lifecycle from design to disposal.

These standards specify the structure of the data (syntax) and the meaning (semantics) of the data. This enables the archiving of product data files to conserve information and to be understandable for longer than the lifetime of the computer systems in which they were created. This technology therefore also achieves sustainable information.

The ISO standards which support a sustainable world are shown in the diagram:



Progress achieved

Matrix of courses, student categories, subject syllabi agreed.
Achievement levels of awareness, knowledge, skills identified.
E-learning system installed.
Authoring system developed.
Courses at Awareness and Knowledge Level for LCA, commercial and managerial issues, product data technology completed.
Case study for the built environment identified

Next steps

Complete courses and contents.
Make e-learning system operational.
Enrol students.
Set time-table for workshops.

Next project meeting: October 1-2, Manchester, U.K.

Project partners

ENEA, (Italy - Coordinator), Ferroday Ltd (UK), Caesar Systems Ltd(UK), Envirolink North-west (UK), POSC/Caesar (Norway), LK Software GmbH(Germany), UAB LKSoft Baltic (Lithuania), Stichting USPI-NL (NL), Escola Superior de Commerc International (Esp), CEPAS (Italy). Seven of the partners are developers of the standards and the other partners have a proven record of supporting SMEs in the take up of new technologies

Partner profile - Envirolink Northwest

Envirolink Northwest was established in 2000 by an industry led Board and the Northwest Regional Development Agency. It is the official body for the cluster of environmental technologies and services (ETS) companies and organisations in the Northwest Region of the UK. Over 1500 companies with a turnover of more than 2.7bn GB Pounds are active in this Region. Envirolink Northwest plays a pivotal role in improving the competitiveness of these companies through its activities and represents the Northwest ETS sector regionally, nationally and internationally.