

Agile, IBM, others take PLM in green direction



Photo courtesy Agile

Loichi Kunimasa, chief innovation officer for Hitachi, addresses regulatory responsibilities at the Agile Software fall 2003 conference.

Recent regulations—such as those for Waste of Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE), and Restrictions on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in electronics—increase manufacturers' responsibilities for product-related environmental impact. Companies are scrambling to meet this new level of scrutiny, and product life-cycle management (PLM) software vendors—given that their systems are the source for clean, rationalized product data—are stepping in to help.

PLM vendor **Agile Software** recently announced Agile Environmental Compliance as part of the release of

environmental impact analysis, collaborative supplier declarations to gather specification data, and environmental attribute management to enable risk reporting and analysis.

"The issue is primarily one of risk management," says Chris Wong, Agile's EVP of Corporate Strategy and Development. "It is critical for manufacturers to understand and control their risk associated with compliance."

Loichi Kunimasa, chief innovation officer

for Japanese electronics giant **Hitachi**—who spoke at Agile's conference last fall—says Hitachi doesn't see the new regulations as simply a burden. As he put it, "Managing hazardous materials throughout the product life cycle is both a regulatory issue and a corporate responsibility."

Agile 9, which allows users to reduce the burden and risk of increased regulation by helping designers evaluate the environmental impact of design decisions in advance. Agile promotes compliant designs by extending the product record with automated envi-

ronmental impact analysis, collaborative supplier declarations to gather specification data, and environmental attribute management to enable risk reporting and analysis. Other PLM vendors address green requirements in different ways. **IBM**, for example, is not only helping customers deal with the compliance challenge, but also must comply as a manufacturer. IBM PLM, in partnership with **Dassault Systemes**, delivers templates to address environmental compliance using the SMARTEAM PLM solution and CATIA, a CAD package. ■

—Jim Brown, contributing editor

PLM support for environmental compliance

- Single repository of product information (base function)
- Environmental impact of design analysis
- Environmental specification management
- Collaborative supplier declarations
- Regulated/hazardous material database
- Compliance reporting
- Regulatory document management

Source: MSI/Tech-Clarity

Up and running

Enigma reports **MTU Aero Engines'** Zuhai facility in China is MTU's second maintenance, repair and overhaul facility to come online for real-time access to maintenance and parts information for five engine lines. Enigma integrates content, commerce, and collaboration in its 3C Support Chain Platform to deliver product information to the point of work.

Catalyst International has implemented SAP Console wireless data collection at **Sergeanto Foods'** Plymouth, Wis.-based packaging & distribution facility. SAP Warehouse Management (WM) and SAPConsole are being used with SAP release 4.6c for increased connectivity

between the warehouse and key production areas. **Cadbury Adams Manufacturing** also is using SAPConsole at its Rockford, Ill.-based confectionery manufacturing plant to reduce errors incurred with a manual desktop entry process.

After standardizing on SAP throughout its global manufacturing operations, Equal sweetener manufacturer **Merisant** turned to **Acsis** for a real-time data collection & validation system that will serve as the foundation for Merisant's manufacturing resources planning processes. As part of the overhaul of Merisant's mobile data collection system at its Manteno, Ill.-based manufacturing site, Acsis is replacing legacy bar-code hardware with mobile terminals and Intermec bar-code scanning terminals.

SBS Technologies, which makes open architecture embedded computer products, has selected **AssurX's** CATSWeb Hosted Solutions for its Corrective Action Request system—initially to be used by three facilities in Minnesota, Massachusetts, and California. CATSWeb is a zero-client application that can be accessed from any computer, running any operating system, with any Web browser.

Expandable Software reports **eyeonics** (formerly C&C Vision), Aliso Viejo, Calif.; and **Velocimed**, Minneapolis, have joined the ranks of medical device manufacturers implementing Expandable's ERP system. System features include lot & serial number tracking, shelf-life dating, multiple units of measure, multicurrency accounting, and shop-floor control. ■