SAP ECTR FORUM 2019

BACK TO THE DIGITAL FUTURE

IoT, AI, and Co. – What sounded once like science fiction is now step by step becoming the technology standard of tomorrow. Numerous manufacturers have already set their course for this transformation with SAP Engineering Control Center | SAP ECTR, SAP's strategic integration platform for SAP PLM. The SAP ECTR FORUM 2019 by DSC Software AG showed how industrial companies work today and where the journey will lead. The event premiered under the motto BACK TO THE DIGITAL FUTURE on October 15 and 16, 2019 in Heidelberg's Print Media Academy.

The DeLorean time machine featured in the movie classic "Back to the Future" set the ultimate futuristic mood right at the check-in of the event. It provided a techy backdrop for photos and accompanied the event thematically. In terms of creativity, the SAP ECTR FORUM 2019 thus surpassed even the legendary DSC Anwendertreffen that have been replaced by the SAP ECTR FORUM after 20 successful years - in order to appeal also to interested parties from the DSC partners network.

More than 500 participants came to see the SAP ECTR FORUM with 13 external speakers and 19 DSC partners. "We're collecting ideas. Our current ECTR projects are all based on ideas from the Anwendertreffen in 2017", told an Engineer. An IT consultant explained: "We want to learn about new trends and solutions, and this is the best place for it." Quite reasonable: The event provided presentations, expert talks, and a Theme Expo over several floors presenting solutions by partners and DSC.

Hit the Ground Running in an Integrated and Interconnected Way

Already the keynotes made it clear: The digital transformation requires a digital value chain. SAP Product Lifecycle Management (SAP PLM) provides jointly with the strategic integration platform SAP ECTR the necessary data basis for a single source of truth. SAP ECTR integrates authoring tools into SAP PLM and combines SAP data with data from external sources: MCAD files, ECAD files, software files and many more. It connects company divisions, as for example engineering with the shop floor by means of add-ons, such as Factory Control Center | FCTR, and it also prepares the SAP data as needed. How do companies make the most out of this? Customer presentations from the engineering industry and metallurgy provided concrete examples:

- a consistent process from CAD over CAM to DNC
  – for increased efficiency, transparency, and data quality
- seamless tool management processes
  – for shorter staging times and fewer machine downtimes
- a worldwide interconnection and data supply for the whole value chain including suppliers
  – for a controlled collaboration within the company and with externals
- coherent and consistent product structures
  – for the realization of strategies such as Design Anywhere – Produce Anywhere

> *Consistent master data is realized by the deep integration of leading MCAD and ECAD authoring tools and the company-wide data management by means of controlled change and release processes. This master data is the basis of all subsequent processes, also regarding the Internet of Things and the Digital Twin.*

Thomas Ohnemus, Vice President Marketing, IoT and Digital Supply Chain, SAP SE

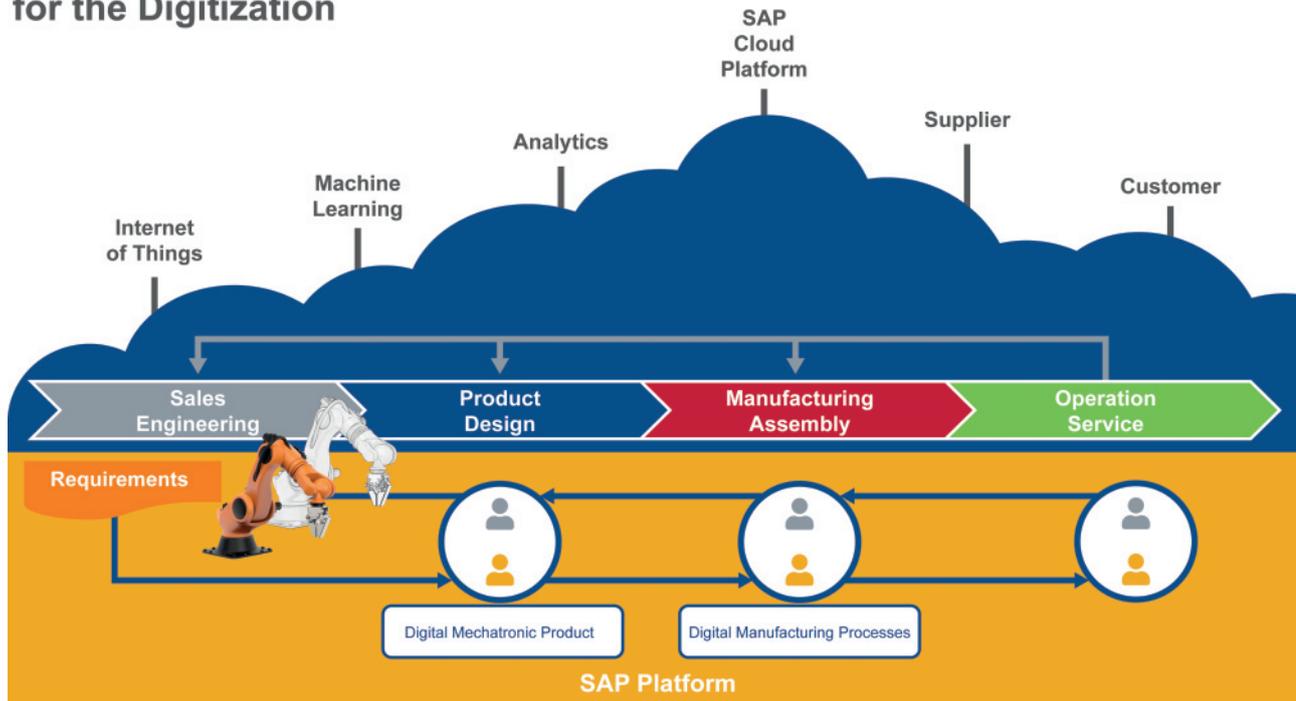## SAP PLM is an Essential Component for the Digitization

Bild: DSC Software AG

Move a Gear up with Digital Twins

SAP ECTR maps product structures completely, connected to SAP information, and thus provides the basis for the Digital Twin: the digital representation of a real product. The Digital Twin grows by the enrichment with PEP data and operational data, and provides an always up-to-date overall view of the product for many use cases in one single system.

A company from the field of medical engineering explained how they import Digital Twins of injection molds into SAP 3D Visual Enterprise Author, where a DSC solution generates DMU scenarios. This generates process security, as the external speaker explained.

Can customized products with batch size 1 become the new series production? A manufacturer of industrial connecters showed how this is done. Customers can configure tailor-made products online, based on machine learning algorithms. Everything else – CAD, CAM, CNC, etc. – works automatically, thanks to configurable materials and Digital Twins. This way, downloadable 3D product models are available online, and the time to customer decreased from 90 days to only 14 days, including regional order processing.

Unlimited Possibilities in the Cloud

A combination of web and PLM is worthwhile. DSC is working flat out on exciting solutions jointly with customers and partners. Therefore, on the second day of the event, the cloud came to the fore. Two workshops by DSC enlarged upon cloud-based CAD systems and the question about how product lifecycle management could be enhanced online. For example for the exchange of design data with partners via SAP Intelligent Product Design and SAP ECTR. In order to harness IoT potential and to create added value, SAP Asset Intelligence Network provides interesting possibilities for collecting and sharing asset data – e.g. with real-time insights, predictive analysis, condition monitoring, customer self-services, AR/VR apps or after sales.

Reaching New Horizons – With DSC

The road to success for a perfect change to S/4HANA was described by a tool manufacturer who also gave a helpful advice: The sooner you get started, the better. His company took the step in order to benefit from IoT potentials and thus realizing the closed loop – for competitive differentiation. With a retrospective to the challenges already met, he emphasized that SAP ECTR helped increasing the productivity by a factor of 5. The result: 60 new products per year.

SAP ECTR was already praised by others: The intuitive user interface significantly contributed to the acceptance of PLM and provides all SAP information at a glance that otherwise would have to be gathered in a time-consuming way.

The SAP ECTR FORUM 2019 proved it – with the single source of truth approach by SAP PLM with SAP ECTR users will be able to hit the ground running to the future with maximum simplicity.

SAP Platinum Partner

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Fascination with Integration