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IMPLEMENT MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO SPICE UP YOUR FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

How to switch from legacy systems and successfully deploy and adopt a next-generation PLM solution

CONTENTS

SUCCESS REQUIRES THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

The food and beverage industry experiences near constant disruptions year after year. It's no mean feat to maintain agility and responsiveness with evolving customer tastes, overcoming supply chain hurdles like raw material shortages impacted by external forces such as major weather events, meeting consumer demands for more planet-conscious products, internal and external regulatory changes and more.

Businesses already have enough on their plate and having to navigate tackling the numerous industry challenges with systems that aren't working to their advantage is the last thing anyone needs.

If you're managing your product development using slow, manual-data-entry-heavy spreadsheets, a disparate mix of disconnected systems or maybe even a legacy Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) platform that's not giving you the right tech foundation, it's time for a refresh. Just like your favorite recipes, the tech you're working with every day may need to be updated every now and then to ensure it's giving you the best results!

So, what's the solution? It's as easy as ABC – well actually PLM, and specifically Centric PLM™. A next-gen tech foundation, Centric PLM is a powerful end-to-end product development platform enhanced with AI-capabilities. PLM empowers teams at every stage of product development from ideation to go-to-market. PLM is the digital tool that teams need to streamline and optimize innovation, collaboration, data-driven decision making and workflows to save time, costs and to get the right products to launch faster across more channels and markets. Plus, a successful agile deployment implementation strategy that secures high adoption rates and maximizes ROI means a smoother transition to bolstering and future-proofing your business.

> In this guide, discover how making the switch from spreadsheet-based product development or upgrading a legacy PLM benefits your company. Find out how to get the best return on your technology investment with agile deployment.

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SPREADSHEETS VS PLM

Spreadsheets certainly have their advantages and are ubiquitous for a reason. But it's important to know when it's time to move on to something more advanced. That's when they begin to hinder your business rather than help it. It's detrimental to your business when spreadsheets can't handle your company's scale, complexity and organizational challenges, and day-to-day processes become frustrating, even chaotic and waste teams' valuable time. Or when they hinder your ability to adjust to industry challenges and adapting to outside changes becomes impossible. Other problems, such as unmotivated, unproductive employees who don't stay for long and slow decision-making, are less obvious, but just as costly. But why does this happen?

Decentralized data

Without a single hub where all teams can always access the up-to-date information they need, bottlenecks build, slowing down the entire product development process, or worse, create a much higher risk of errors that at best waste time, and at worst have huge financial implications.

Little transparency

From siloed information to lost updates between teams, a lack of transparency driven by spreadsheets means teams are left unclear about project statuses, can't prioritize effectively, and hours upon hours are wasted clarifying timelines and expectations. Critical product performance and margins data also gets lost, affecting top-level decisions that can make or break a business.

Manual data entry errors

The more data entry is left to manual processes, the more room is left for error. These errors can lead to costly production snags, and even product recalls, putting the health of consumers and your company's reputation on the line.

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SPREADSHEETS VS PLM

No collaboration

For businesses with employees working from home, across departments, and even across the world, sharing spreadsheets (via email or the cloud) is inefficient and unsustainable. Collaboration with vendors using spreadsheets is also a challenge from ensuring proprietary data isn't shared externally to unconfirmed changes being made.

Complexity is unmanageable

Spreadsheets lack the intuitive, cloud-based platform and transparent workflows needed to manage global operations alongside the growing numbers of SKUs in different regions with varying regulatory requirements and constant product changes. When a few spreadsheets turn into dozens (or hundreds!), problems grow exponentially.

Compiled, these challenges take businesses down a path of overspending to correct mistakes, legal and compliance risks, time-to-market slowdowns, shrinking profit margins, compromised data security, talent churn, green and ethical production gaffes and a tarnished brand.

Centric PLM provides a recognizable spreadsheet-style user interface with everything you'd expect to see, but with much more power. Teams benefit from a single, secure hub of real-time data accessible anytime from anywhere, boosting transparency, reducing errors and making complexity manageable. This means:

> Eliminating wasted time and money, driving up product margins speeding time to market
> Improving internal and external communication and collaboration
> Empowering strategic data-driven decision making
> Ensuring compliance and consumer safety
> Boosting business agility and adaptability to successfully navigate the changing industry landscape

And more!

"
PLM speeds up new product development, improves communication among stakeholders and simplifies workflows to accelerate approvals...We are already seeing improved visibility, communication, and coordination across departments, and PLM's streamlining capabilities across multiple functions will support our international growth.
CEO at Kasih Food Production Co.
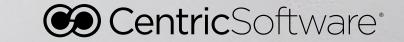"

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UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS: LEGACY PLM AND BEYOND

Making a tech investment is a huge undertaking, and not getting it right often has long-term consequences. As many as 78% of businesses fail to scale and maintain the broader digital transformation initiatives that depend on enterprise technologies.[1] Businesses can end up with a system, or an array of disconnected systems, that don't fully meet their needs and actually create additional challenges within themselves. Teams and data are disconnected and forced into silos, slowing down workflows and collaboration and increasing the risk of errors.

As the business scales and new complexities are introduced such as developing and selling multi-category products, or launching into new markets with different regulatory requirements, the capabilities of existing systems fail to cut the mustard creating bottlenecks. As frustration builds, people may resort to working outside of the systems, which in turn adds to the chaos. Even if a company's IT department is able to build a PLM-type solution, they can often be clunky and aren't easily adaptable to changing business needs, meaning they unfortunately also fail to provide a successful long-term solution. Ultimately working with the wrong technology becomes unsustainable, talented employees leave, and business KPI's are impacted.

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1   https://www.everestgrp.com/?post_type=post&p=46192

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UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS: LEGACY PLM AND BEYOND

Centric PLM offers the most broad functionality in return for business investment in an end-to-end platform for product development and management, connecting every phase of design, development, sourcing, manufacturing and retail in the same digital space with an up-to-date and accurate 'single source of actionable truth' for all product-related data.

PLM is also designed with connectivity in mind. Centric PLM connects to systems like ERP, PIM, DAM and SCM solutions and stores all product information, content and decisions related to go-to-market made in the past, currently in development or sale and for future use or for sharing across systems and teams. Centralizing all data with PLM optimizes workflows, maximizes collaboration and empowers teams to break free from the clutter and chaos of disparate systems.

> With Centric PLM's 'single source of truth,' we can streamline notifications and changes in formulation, recipes and regulations across markets to ensure regulatory compliance and launch new product variations more quickly. We can also store supplier data, claims, certificates and contracts in one place. Aviko has entered a new and improved era of software user experience — PLM's modern, easy-to-use and intuitive interface is making life easier for all of our teams.
>
> **Project Manager at Aviko**

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AGILE DEPLOYMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Right Solution + Right Implementation = Maximized ROI

So, you've chosen to upgrade to a modern PLM system, what's next? Making sure it's successfully implemented. Buying enterprise software like PLM that never goes live or that people don't use is a waste of time, money and resources. The failed investment can also impede future attempts to implement other kinds of solutions later down the line. Taking advantage of new project momentum is critical; the initial setup, speed and progression of implementation has a significant effect on time to value and return on investment (ROI). Not only are additional costs incurred by delays, business opportunities are missed and user interest risks drifting elsewhere leading to adoption failure. This is where Centric Software 's Agile Deployment methodology comes in.

AGILE DEPLOYMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

| What is Agile Deployment?

This methodology focuses on users. It's defined by the business processes that users need to achieve on a daily basis to push products through each stage of the product lifecycle in the most efficient way.

Rather than disappearing for many months before presenting the user with a finished product that may or may not be suitable for the business at that point in time, teams are involved throughout the implementation to make sure that PLM delivers value on the shortest time scale possible and adjusts and is configured to match the evolution of the business without the need for lengthy customizations or upgrades.

The user interactivity combined with Centric PLM's familiar spreadsheet-style interface including custom views by role, filtering and dropdown menu features, brings untold benefits in driving adoption and increasing satisfaction with the solution across the whole organization. People are much better at identifying issues when they are actually using the solution, rather than passively watching a demo. Ensuring user 'buy-in' helps to avoid the drift back to spreadsheets often experienced in traditional PLM deployments.

AGILE DEPLOYMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

| Benefits of Agile Deployment

> **Implement up to 9× faster** than traditional deployments

> **Rapid time to value:** businesses quickly start benefiting from PLM even with multiple project iterations to refine user needs

> **Easier to track phases and stay on scope:** with user involvement at every stage, reducing the risk of extra requirements, costs, and delays

> **Agile Deployment is flexible:** accommodate the addition, removal or adjustment of different parts of the project

> **Implement on time and on budget:** the average IT project overruns by 27%, but one in six projects have a cost overrun of 200% and a schedule overrun of almost 70%[2]

> **Streamlined implementation:** Agile Deployment compresses deployment into a shorter time span and a more flexible, iterative process

> **Less upheaval:** change management is challenging during PLM implementation. User involvement eases the transition and resolves issues during the project, not after go-live

> "
>
> What set Centric apart was the easy-to-use out of the box functionality that it is robust enough to give us everything we were looking for. And then, the speed of having it up and running in a short amount of time.
>
> **IT Director at Great Kitchens**
>
> "

Great KITCHENS FOOD COMPANY®

2   https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2229735#:~:text=The%20analysis%20of%20a%20sample,schedule%20overrun%20of%20almost%2070%25

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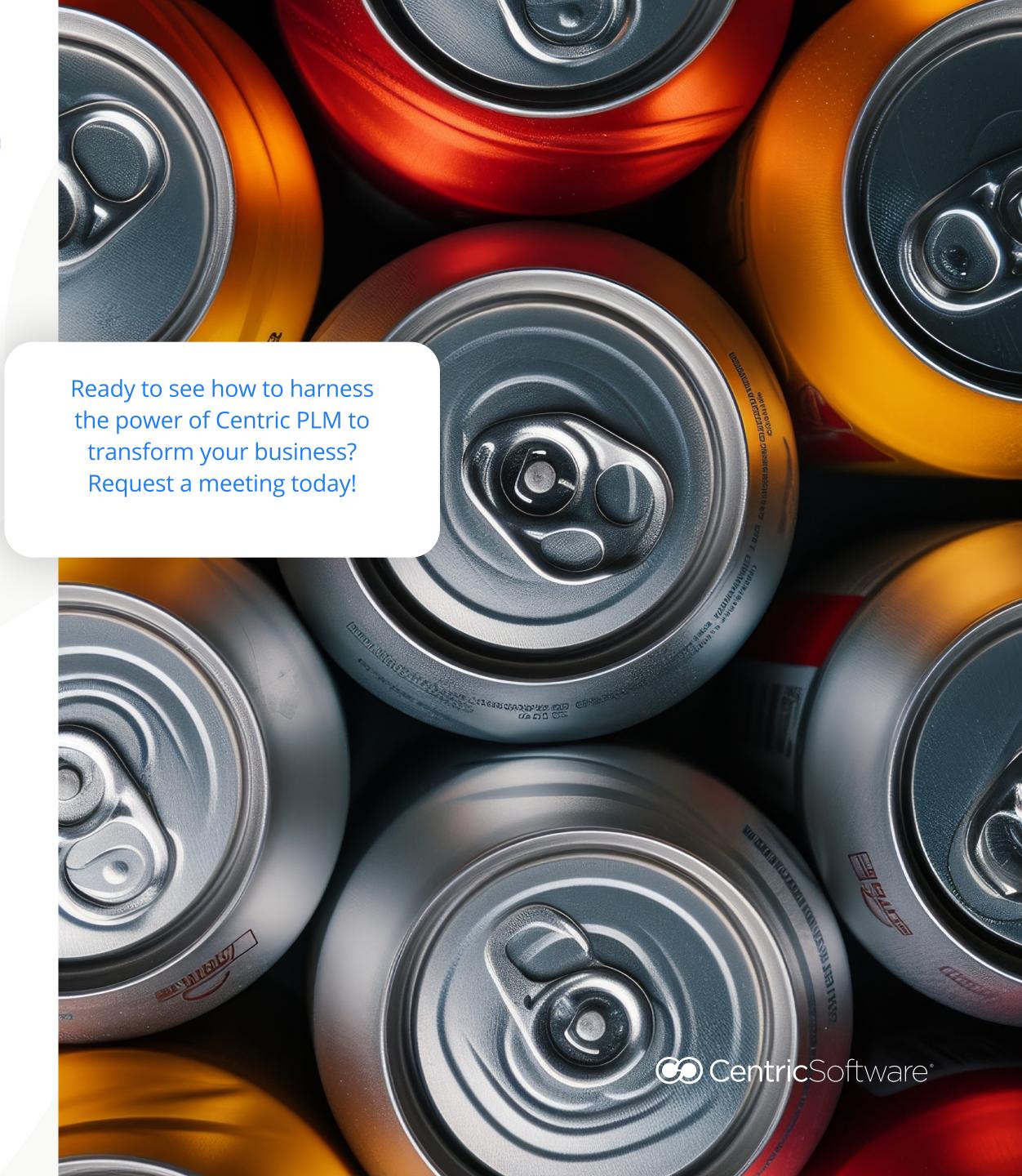# THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY IS COMPLEX

Finding the right tech to support your business in the present and also set a foundation for long-term, sustainable growth is a challenge – especially if you're already struggling working with spreadsheets and outdated systems causing issues such as scattered product data, a lack of visibility into products in development, and difficulties in keeping up with changing compliance regulations.

Companies who want to stay at the front of the shelf must leave the mountains of spreadsheets and outdated systems behind and embrace the next-gen tech that will future-proof their business.

Centric PLM is an AI-powered product development platform that connects people, products, processes and actionable data within one digital solution. Centric PLM drives digital transformation for brands, retailers and manufacturers, streamlining operations and enabling efficiencies for faster time to market. It seamlessly integrates with other enterprise platforms like ERP, e-commerce, PIM, DAM, sustainability, compliance and quality management software and 2D and 3D CAD software, among others.

Replacing 200+ legacy systems and over 500 spreadsheets, Centric PLM drives impressive results from up to 60% faster time to market to increased productivity by up to 50%, increased sales by up to 10% reduced costs by up to 15% and more.

While modernizing your tech is a process that shouldn't be taken lightly, it also doesn't have to be an ordeal. With the best solution and successful implementation, businesses benefit from short and long-term ROI. Centric Software provides market-driven solutions such as its flagship Centric PLM platform with 100% go-live rate of over 800+ successful agile deployment implementations to date.

Ready to see how to harness the power of Centric PLM to transform your business? Request a meeting today!

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ABOUT CENTRIC SOFTWARE

From its headquarters in Silicon Valley, Centric Software provides the market-leading AI-enabled Product Lifecycle Management platform for food & beverage manufacturers, grocery, brands and multi-category retailers. As experts in all fast-moving consumer goods, Centric Software delivers best-of-breed solutions to design, develop, source, buy, make, package, assort and sell products. Centric solutions optimize the product portfolio, harmonize product offers and streamline product development by speeding time to market and innovation while enhancing quality control and ensuring regulatory compliance.

> **Centric PLM™** features integrated industry best practices and innovative, AI-enabled capabilities tailored specifically for food and beverage manufacturers, retailers and food service providers. Seamlessly manage the overall product lifecycle, from initial concept and formula development to packaging, quality, supplier collaboration, nutritional labeling, production, SKU rationalization and beyond. Results include up to a 50% improvement in productivity and a 60% decrease in time to market.

> **Centric Visual Boards™** are a visually oriented top-down/bottom-up product portfolio optimization tool. Real-time data and imagery from multiple business systems are brought into a singular accessible workspace, creating a new, visual way of working for all teams to ensure robust, well-balanced global/regional product offers, dramatically decreasing assortment development cycle time.

Centric Software maintains a 100% go-live rate and has received awards for excellence from Just Food, Just Drinks, Business Awards UK, Frost & Sullivan and many other regional accolades. Centric Software is proud to provide the best solutions, backed by the best team and to partner with the best customers.

Centric Software is a subsidiary of Dassault Systèmes (Euronext Paris: #13065, DSY.PA), the world leader in 3D design software, 3D digital mock-up and PLM solutions.

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WINNER 2024
Food Industry Awards 2024
Winner – Excellence in Food Technology

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