The perfect fit for today’s apparel and footwear industries

In an industry in which fashion and trends change faster than ever, where globalisation and outsourcing are crucial key factors for success and survival, the pressure to reduce the time to market from design to production and for systems that support and facilitate collaboration is growing on a daily basis.

To develop products successfully for today’s markets, apparel companies must facilitate creativity and innovation by removing organisational constraints. For more than a decade we have been working in close collaboration with leading companies within the apparel and footwear industries, to develop and support solutions which automate and optimise the processes within their global supply chains.

Infor PLM Runtime QT can improve your profitability and competitiveness, give a clearer overview and greater control over your supply chain, enhance quality, remove organisational constraints and significantly reduce time to market – what once took weeks and months can now be achieved in days.

Whether you are a retailer, wholesaler, brand or production company, Infor PLM Runtime QT can transform the way you do business. Today, you will find many apparel and footwear companies all over the world, including some of the biggest and best, using Infor PLM Runtime QT to streamline their processes.

Infor PLM Runtime QT
Product Lifecycle Management

Infor PLM Runtime QT delivers tangible business benefits quickly, providing you with a foundation for successful management throughout the product development lifecycle. Effective management of new product development and introduction programs is key to increasing your responsiveness and reducing risk. From knowledge re-use in design, through to achieving production and quality targets, Infor PLM Runtime QT is a proven solution for today’s apparel company.

As well as delivering a seamless linkage between different areas of your business including Design, Product Development, Buying, Production and Visual Merchandising, Infor PLM Runtime QT also enables highly effective collaboration among overseas buying agents, suppliers and contract manufacturers. Whether you are looking to automate your procurement processes to achieve effective sourcing, or increase the speed and efficiency of collaborative product design and development with your external partners, Infor PLM Runtime QT enables you to achieve your objectives.

With Infor PLM Runtime QT you can produce and develop styles throughout their lifecycles, and capture product data and best practices on a centralised database (Runtime QT - PDM). Infor PLM Runtime QT also provides visibility of workflows and critical paths for effective decision making, through our range of add-on modules. These modules allow you to create a flexible web-based platform for worldwide collaboration, perform effective collection planning and automate workflow processes.
Runtime QT - PDM

Product Data Management

With ever more complex and distributed supply chains, it is vital that companies in the apparel and footwear industries take full control over their product development process. Centralising product data in one easily accessible system and automating related workflows, will ensure product data is received when and where it is required. This ensures consistency and effective communication, minimises errors and wastage, and significantly reduces time to market.

Runtime QT - PDM is the core of our Infor PLM Runtime QT suite and holds detailed information to be used in pre-production, including comprehensive product descriptions. Whether a brand, retailer or manufacturer, you will find the functionalities you require in Runtime QT - PDM. Our Product Data Management application has, over the years, become the standard in the apparel and footwear industries.

Runtime QT - PDM connects all the processes that are part of the development phase, minimises manual labour and supplies relevant departments, partners and overseas subcontractors with detailed real time product information. The solution covers all areas from sketching, product and technical specifications to detailed pre-costing throughout the supply chain.

The Core of Infor PLM Runtime QT

If you focus on improving work and paper flows, the system includes advanced planning and event tracking tools, as well as personal to-do lists with detailed overviews of both individual styles and entire collections. The planning module combines current work with your deadlines for which there are automatic follow-up procedures.
**Modules**

Runtime QT - PDM has more than 40 modules as standard, including: Cost Calculations, Bill Of Materials, Size Specifications, Planning, To-do lists and checklists, Wash and Care Labels, Bill of Labour and Technical Descriptions. The system also includes tables for raw materials, suppliers, colours, etc. In the Runtime QT - PDM modules you will also find different work functions that can be used across all departments of your company. The solution combines technical drawings with model relevant product data in a unique and user-friendly environment.

**Flexibility**

Runtime QT - PDM offers built-in screen layout tools so you can customise the solution to your exact needs, including for example storyboards, collection overviews and checklists. You have access to the real time status of your collections and can allocate resources to focus on critical problem areas. User Defined Functions within Runtime QT - PDM mean you can incorporate your own business rules and logic, giving you flexibility to change and configure the system to meet your exact requirements.

**Reporting**

With Runtime QT - PDM's advanced reporting functionality you can report on all fields in the system, and use the built-in query function to customise any printout, from high level down to specific detail (e.g. for storyboards or sample overviews).

**Graphics**

One of Runtime QT - PDM's strengths is it's handling of graphics both in terms of reporting, but also in terms of accessing and altering drawings. Runtime QT - PDM allows you to access any of your drawings or pictures, and Infor PLM Runtime QT's advanced shadow file function means it is always updated with the latest version of your technical sketches. Supports both Mac and PC platforms. Automates population of graphical content e.g. from Illustrator and Canvas via plug-ins.
Runtime QT - PLM

Add-On Modules

Runtime QT - ACP (Advanced Collection Planning)

More than ever before, fashion companies need to plan and monitor the current as well as the next planned collection or drop. Designers and developers need a clear insight into which direction to take and what budget to follow, so they can focus on the most profitable styles.

Runtime QT - ACP gives you total visibility to make the right decisions, and allows you to define strategy and requirements, whether for an entire collection, group of products or individual product. Using Runtime QT - ACP you can pre-plan a collection before design and development processes have started. Your entire plan can then be automatically generated into your Runtime QT - PDM system with the majority of details already pre-filled and templates loaded in selected Runtime QT - PDM modules.

In this way your designers and product developers can have a head start with your next collection. Details can then be compared against tasks performed in Runtime QT - PDM, the core module within the Runtime QT - PLM product suite. There are built-in reports for follow-up and comparison of a planned collection.

Business Benefits

- Minimises the time spent on pre-planning your collections
- Reduces critical lead times
- Fewer mistakes and a large reduction in workload
- Reduces paperwork and re-keying of data for users
- Categorise and group your styles and view the result in a cube
- Improve your internal planning capabilities.

Runtime QT - eCollaboration

With a constantly growing number of items in collections and increased demand for shorter lead times, combined with suppliers, manufacturers and production sites spread all over the world, you need a powerful collaborative solution for success and long-term survival.

Runtime QT - eCollaboration fully automates time-consuming communications, bringing you and your external partners closer than ever. Runtime QT - eCollaboration enables you to automate your entire quotations process, multiple suppliers can be selected to automatically receive the latest pdf specification, enabling you to have a better overview and to receive quicker, more accurate quotations.

Runtime QT - eCollaboration can be configured easily in the browser, eliminating the need for a back-end server application. Groups, users and their rights can be set up quickly and efficiently, minimising administration. You can choose which data and fields partners can access, either on a read-only or editable basis. With a web enabled front-end that supports Safari on the Mac, Internet and Netscape explorers, as well as other standard browsers.

Business Benefits

- Reduces critical lead times – key information instantly available using a fully configurable web portal
- Minimises costly and time-consuming errors in the sample phase
- Optimises the QC process, immediate access to information such as test results from suppliers and production sites
- Fast and secure connection to suppliers, manufacturers and production sites.

Runtime QT - PDF Print Server

Last minute changes combined with pressure to reduce lead times, often result in misunderstandings and inaccuracies in style specifications.

With Runtime QT - PDF Print Server, your offices abroad, suppliers and production sites can retrieve style product specifications and sample comments in PDF files, through a web browser, anytime and anywhere. This ensures that up-to-date information is available real time, any last minute changes on components and consumption can be downloaded immediately as PDF files.

Used in conjunction with Runtime QT - Workflow, suppliers, manufacturers and production sites are automatically notified when style specification downloads are available, for example. This results in a fluent flow of information which ensures that valuable time is not wasted in the pre-production phase.

When used for supplier auctions you simplify the communication, creating faster overviews and significantly reducing the costs involved.

Business Benefits

- Suppliers and manufacturers can find their own information and print relevant production material saving you and them both time and money (e.g DHL/UPS shipment)
- Simplified communication and significantly reduced costs
- Easy version control
- View-licenses – gives everybody access to all information via standard Runtime QT - PDM reports.
Runtime QT - Workflow

Powerful and totally configurable, Runtime QT - Workflow significantly enhances your communications both internally and with your trusted partners. It can help you fully benefit from collaborative working, meet demanding lead times and improve overall business performance by monitoring critical paths, milestones and crucial style changes.

Runtime QT - Workflow enables you to prioritise jobs, optimise allocation of your resources and provides you with the ability to implement workflow across the entire development process. Pre-production planning can be executed effectively as the system is able to give you task-lists only for the upcoming deadlines (management by exception).

To realise the full benefits of collaborative working, use Runtime QT - Workflow in conjunction with other Runtime QT solutions such as Runtime QT - PDM, eCollaboration and PDF Print Server.

Business Benefits

- Powerful tool to control and improve the business workflow
- Improved communication in the critical development phase
- Enables and automates escalation procedures
- Focus on critical tasks and ensure proper use of resources
- More effective pre-production planning
- Not limited to Runtime QT - PDM users – non-users can benefit through e-mail notifications

Runtime QT - Mobile

Apparel and footwear companies now need to collaborate with suppliers, manufacturers and production sites spread all over the world. As a consequence buyers, controllers and other employees are travelling a great deal and spend a lot of time away from the office.

With Runtime QT - Mobile they can use an off-line Runtime QT - PDM database in a hotel, on a plane or when visiting partners and suppliers. They can work on style specifications, pre-calculations, collection planning, sample comments and QC issues on their laptop, without requiring a connection to a server.

Changes made whilst in the field are reloaded and synchronised automatically once reconnected to the network. Security is assured as the off-line database is fully encrypted.

Business Benefits

- Greater efficiency and productivity when travelling
- Access to important collection data including direct entry of changes and comments
- Access to all historical style information, no need to carry binders containing collection data
- Improved QC due to availability of historical sample and supplier data.

Runtime QT - PLM Integration Tools

To extend and add value to the supply chain, avoid redundant data entry and user transcription errors, many companies invest significant money and resources in building integration and data exchange capabilities between their pre-production tools and their core business ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) systems. Unfortunately, this does not always guarantee success.

Since the inception of our first PDM solution, we have focused on developing reliable and proven solutions which facilitate integration into our customer’s existing systems. These range from financial systems, production planning solutions, ERP systems, graphical to pattern systems.

Today we have a range of integration solutions which support XML documents, database triggers, file exchange or simple export/import functions. We allow you to choose the tools which match your overall technology strategy, which also integrate to solutions provided by other system suppliers.

Business Benefits

- Automates processes and data flow
- Reduces duplication in data entry and maintenance
- Integration can be managed at module, field or style level
- Eliminates time lost due to errors in the pre-production phase
- Flexible set-up of integration triggers, e.g. a style level, locked status, a specific planning phase or development management approval.

Features

5 types of integration:

- Runtime QT - PDM/ADM (e.g. Microsoft Business Solutions)
- XML Connector, (e.g. SAP, JDE, Retek/Oracle, Movex)
- Infor S21 - Interface (Infor System21)
- Customised triggers on database level
- Simple import/export functions
Infor PLM Runtime DT

A unique concept for developing creative ideas for new collections. It brings together the collective efforts of designers, suppliers and manufacturing teams to form powerful design communities. With Infor PLM Runtime DT, it is possible to illustrate the colours and materials, ensuring important details are illustrated clearly and precisely.

Infor PLM Runtime DT suite includes:

Runtime DT - StyleTime Pro – A creative and flexible module that can be incorporated as a plug-in in many design tools. You can use it for solving tasks in technical drawings, and to change lines and shapes really fast, by means of the vectors. Therefore you can save both time and money because you can re-use styles from one season to another.

Runtime DT - ColorTime – Used by many companies for effective colour control, so that printed designs are clear and precise in the required colours and shades. The colour control can then be conveyed to other programmes.

Runtime DT - KnitTime – An efficient and user-friendly module for the design of knitted textiles. It manages the simulation of knit qualities, displaying the structure of the knit with the correct gauge sizes.

Runtime DT - WeaveTime – An advanced and user-friendly programme for the design of woven textiles. The textile programme includes all types of weaves, including Jacquard, Twill and Oxford, and you can also design and develop your own patterns as required.

Infor PLM Runtime ST

An industry-specific customer relationship management solution that focuses on sales optimisation and customer service. It enables your company to react quickly to changes in your customer’s requirements and market conditions. You can use our eCRM solution to streamline and manage the entire sales process, procedures and strategy development, creating synergies within your organisation and significantly reducing timescales with your operations. Our eCRM concept consists of:

Runtime ST - OnSite – Enables your sales force to enter orders remotely, gives them access to the customer’s complete history and also provides them with the latest product and customer information which will be available anytime, anywhere.

Runtime ST - eCommerce – Your sales channel on the Internet that enables your sales force, distributors and customers to place and track orders, search order history and review account information.