Improve Innovation Processes and Decision-Making Across the Product Lifecycle

Companies invest large amounts of time, energy, and capital in creating new products and bringing them to market. But nearly one out of every three new products is a commercial failure. Using a structured, automated process to manage innovation can dramatically increase the likelihood of a product’s success, resulting in greater revenues and profits.

With Accolade Process Manager, you can:

• Easily define and adopt best-practice innovation processes.
• Improve collaboration and communication among global, cross-functional teams.
• Streamline the day-to-day project management tasks of innovation team leaders.
• Empower strategic decision-making at every stage and gate of the innovation effort.
• Reduce administrative burden and encourage knowledge reuse.
• Continuously measure and improve innovation process performance.

Accolade Process Manager is a modular software system designed to provide your organization with the process foundation and strategic decision-making support needed to speed the right products to market. Accolade can automate any of today’s gated development processes, including Stage-Gate®, agile, PACE®, waterfall, DoD 5000, Lean Six Sigma, and phase-gate. By providing a central repository for all product innovation project and portfolio data, Accolade enables your cross-functional teams to collaborate on new products from inception to end-of-life. Information supplied by the system can be used to critically evaluate the value and risk of new product opportunities, improve resource planning, and increase new product throughput. Process owners receive the data required to effect continuous improvement. And executives are provided with on-demand access to the information they need to assess portfolios and make sound investment decisions.

Although Accolade was designed principally to support product innovation, its powerful process models make it easy to extend the use of the software to other applications. Accolade models can be developed for virtually any type of process or project portfolio, including technology and basic research projects, as well as Six Sigma, capital development, cost reduction, commercial innovation/marketing programs, mergers and acquisitions, and IT projects.
Create Sustainable Market Differentiation by Closing the Gap Between Gated Decision-Making and Process Execution

**Ensure Innovation Process Adoption with a Flexible and Intuitive Process Engine**
Increase the value of your innovation processes by applying easy-to-use tools that save cross-functional teams time and improve the quality of their output. Accolade’s highly configurable modeling engine ensures your processes reflect the unique requirements and methodologies of your organization, and that they can be owned and managed by business process leaders without reliance on IT.

**Streamline Project Management by Automatically Scheduling and Assigning Projects**
Support the practical project management needs of innovation team leaders by enabling them to define, schedule, and manage multiple innovation projects automatically—even faster than Microsoft® Excel®-based approaches—reducing project-related tasks to less than one minute each. Additionally, as changes in supported technologies, market requirements, or business priorities occur, project managers can dynamically incorporate them into their existing projects or schedule new projects in a matter of seconds.

**Reduce Administrative Burden and Encourage Knowledge Reuse**
Give your cross-functional product development teams the advantage of instant, one-click access to all projects and documents relevant to their information requirements. Accolade’s quick-search features save time and help to ensure that pertinent, pre-existing data is not overlooked or needlessly regenerated. Easy-to-use web forms and embedded “smart” document technology streamline the creation of integrated product definitions, business cases, market assessments, cash flow analyses, gate presentations, and other key deliverables by automating the reuse of information across documents and process stages.

**Expedite Cross-Functional Teamwork via Collaborative Workflow Processes**
Accolade enables a new, more effective way for cross-functional teams to create shared, “collaborative” deliverables. People from different functions can use flexible workflows to efficiently contribute their knowledge and input into each deliverable at the right time, and with full confidence they are building on the latest work from others. The result is improved coordination, and as much as a 30 percent reduction of the time spent in low-value communication.

**Enable Ongoing Evaluation of Process Effectiveness**
Automatically track key events in the lives of your product innovation projects, including decisions made and the reasoning behind them. On-demand access to project histories helps to inform gate decisions and supports efficient, insightful analysis of why projects succeeded or failed. These capabilities also make it easier to detect and resolve process bottlenecks and further the adoption of best practices.

**Support for Global Teams**
Multi-language support enables global team members to interface with the solution in their native language while collaborating with fellow team members. Each team member can select their language of choice to enable interaction between team members through a common system and shared data.

**Mobile Access**
With the Accolade mobile app users participate in their organization’s innovation process in a way that is familiar and intuitive, mirroring the digital experiences they are accustomed to in their everyday lives. Team leaders can monitor and track innovation projects from anywhere, online or offline, and keep up to date on the status of critical priorities and actions. Receive instant notification of important decisions to quickly review and assess innovation initiatives and key deliverables, and track what’s new in their organization’s innovation efforts and what’s changed.

**Integrate to Microsoft Project, SharePoint® and Other Data Sources**
Share detailed project plans between Accolade and Microsoft Project, streamlining project scheduling activity and enabling the definition of sophisticated project plans required by professional project managers. Display data from your Accolade projects directly in Microsoft SharePoint, and make project and deliverable information easily available via SharePoint search. In addition, Accolade’s rich application programming interface (API) and automated data loading tools make it easy to integrate the software with other project-related data sources, such as ERP and time-tracking systems.
**Count on Enterprise-Wide Scalability, Security, and Global Support**

Support product portfolios containing large volumes of projects—up to 100,000—on a single server. Advanced access-control features allow project administrators to institute sophisticated, multi-dimensional security models that ensure the protection of confidential project information and safe collaboration. Support for currency conversion enables global users to develop financial forecasts in local currencies while aggregating portfolio values using corporate standards.

**Benefits**

- **Improve product investment decisions,** focusing resources on high-value projects.
- **Speed time-to-market** through better process execution.
- **Reduce time** spent preparing for and participating in gate decision-making meetings.
- **Increase** collaboration and accountability among cross-functional teams.
- **Centralize** innovation data and improve project visibility.

Accolade’s “smart” integration to Microsoft Office dramatically reduces the amount of time and effort required to create deliverables. Word documents, Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations are populated with current project information with the click of a button.

**Improve project selection and go/kill decision-making about proposed new products** by implementing uniform deliverables, review formats and criteria. Accolade’s embedded best-practice models can help speed process maturity, reduce administrative burden, and encourage wide-spread process adoption.

Whether product development teams reside in one location or around the world, project status can be shared through the project home page. Information related to the project can be disseminated to communicate project decisions, task completions, and pending work.

The My Projects summary provides an up-to-the-minute status report on an individual’s assigned projects. Pictures of proposed new products give gatekeepers visual cues about their projects, and symbols are used to draw attention to projects at a critical stage that require further examination or action.