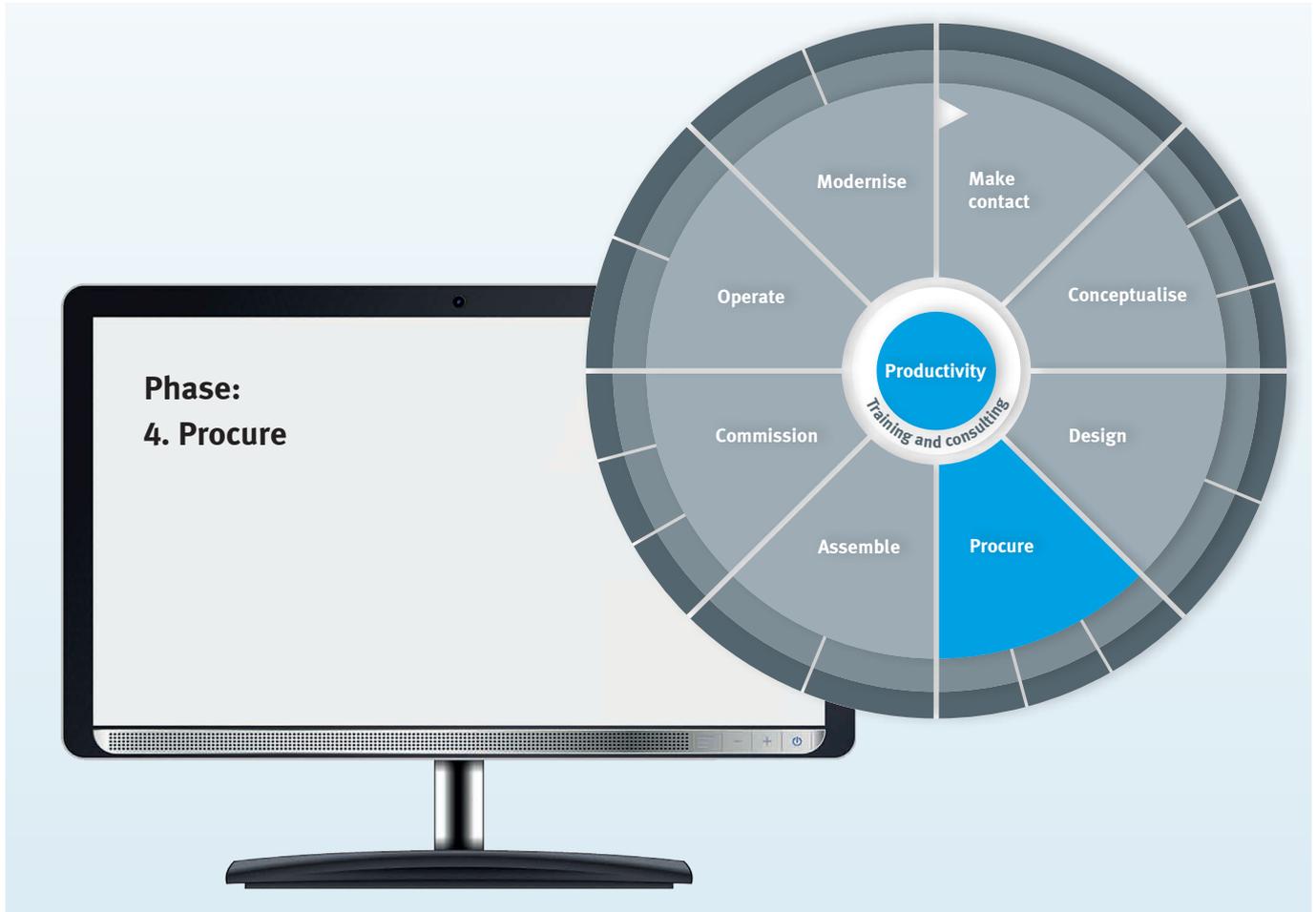


White Paper:

Saving process costs with software support

Part 2: Practical tips for phase 4



Product life cycles are becoming ever shorter¹⁾. Less and less time is available, whether for development of an installation or its possible modernisation. Companies and their employees therefore try to continuously optimise their processes as that is the only way they can remain competitive and deal with increasingly demanding challenges.

The software tools provided by system and component suppliers can support them in this; they have been available for quite some time and their number is constantly growing. The short tips in this white paper are intended as a guide to selecting tools which will help you to save valuable time in the eight-phase model of the value creation process shown above.

Tips about which functions can be used and when.

- The challenges in the individual value creation phases
- Support tools
- How you can become even more productive with networked tools, and
- Tips about which functions can be used and when.

Would you also like to save process costs in other phases?

Part 1: Practical tips for the phases "Make contact", "Conceptualise" and "Design"

Part 3: Practical tips for the phases "Assemble", "Commission", "Operate" and "Modernise"

¹ Sources:

<https://www.hs-pforzheim.de/De-de/Hochschule/Einrichtungen/IAF/Forschungsschwerpunkte/ppw/Seiten/Inhaltseite.aspx> (2015-10-15)
<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/wirtschaft/produktlebenszyklen-immer-schneller-neuer/4041756.html> (2015-10-15)

Phase 4: Procure – quickly and without errors

If a product is on the completed parts list for a new machine or a spare part is required, this should be shipped to the technician's workplace as quickly as possible. As deadlines are frequently tight, the procurement department must have the correct part numbers and product data regardless of how the product is ordered. They should also have precise details of delivery dates, price, etc. Incorrect figures and careless mistakes cost time and money and may mean that a product cannot be found or even that an incorrect product is delivered.

Time may also be lost if a design department has deleted items from the original quotation and a new quotation is therefore required. Delivery tracking is very time-consuming if it is not automated, as the supplier has to be contacted every time there is a query. Order documents often get lost in the goods-in department so that replacement ones have to be requested. All these potential errors can be avoided.

Tips for quick and error-free ordering

Open Catalogue Interface (OCI) is an open standardised catalogue data interface that allows the exchange of catalogue data records between SAP e-Procurement systems. It ensures that transferring and harmonising data, such as prices, in an e-procurement system can be carried out swiftly and free of errors. This data harmonisation is also facilitated by net price lists, which should ideally be generated by the supplier in a neutral CSV format. These are then read into the e-procurement system.

Notes identifying phase-out products in online shops are important for re-ordering. These notes, together with information on alternative products, should ideally be shown directly in the product basket.

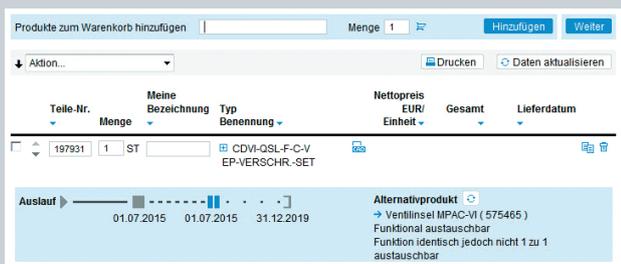


Fig. 1: Phase-out note with information on an alternative product in the Festo product basket

Storing, sharing and forwarding product baskets

These are useful functions when working with external design and procurement departments. They help to avoid unnecessary work. A designer working for an external service provider can, for example, work ahead by storing products in a product basket as they are selected and forward the basket once the work has been completed. This virtually eliminates errors with products with long type designations, such as valve terminals.

Stock labels

These labels, with photographs and barcodes for barcode scanners, speed up the ordering process. Suppliers such as Festo provide a free-of-charge label designer in their online shops for the ordering process.



Fig. 2: Generating stock labels

Order tracking and document downloads

These are already a permanent feature of the online shops of numerous suppliers. They allow the delivery status and package location of an order to be accessed quickly and easily at any time of the day or night. Having an option to access and print out order documents at any time regardless of the ordering method used is even better.

Spare parts finder and catalogues

These have an integrated link to an online shop, and speed up the process of deciding whether it would be preferable to repair a product or buy a new one. In addition, spare parts finders often provide important supplementary information, such as other materials that are required (greases, special tools, etc.) as well as assembly drawings.

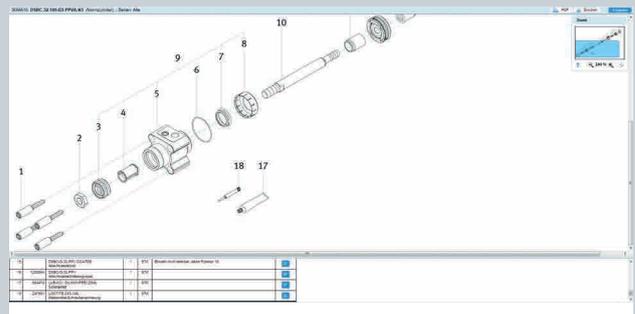


Fig. 3: Festo → spare parts catalogue

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Your local contact:

You will find details of your local contact on the website of your Festo national company.