

# **Development of a Communication Tool and Process to Manage Material Status during the Implementation of NPD Projects**

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## **Abstract**

The Air Solutions Davidson Operations facility is a part of the Ingersoll-Rand Air Solutions Group, a division of Ingersoll-Rand that produces a range of air compressors and compressed air products and services. Historically, the new product development (NPD) and production implementation activities have occurred in series. As the design and implement cycle is completed in less time and work is done concurrently, however, a weakness has become evident. There is not good interface between the new product development (NPD) and production implementation procedures. The process followed to concurrently develop and implement new products is not comprehensive enough to effectively manage the activities. The objective of this project is to generate a new database and software tool to provide increased visibility and communication, develop a procedure to manage the field trial unit (FTU) effort, and develop training manuals for Ingersoll-Rand employees.

In developing the new spreadsheet and process three different alternatives were considered based on information gained from IR employee interviews and team experience. The alternative selected was to enhance the existing spreadsheet in Excel. The development of the new spreadsheet and process has addressed many of the gaps and deficiencies that were identified during the project development. In order to develop recommendations for implementation to IR, the team performed an evaluation to determine how different issues were addressed. After that process was complete, the team was able to provide recommendations and steps for further development including training materials.