Adobe solutions for manufacturing: Supplier collaboration/RFx

Improve supplier collaboration by securely delivering better information across the supply chain

Manufacturers use Adobe solutions to automate, manage, and control the RFx process:

- Help reduce the costs of managing the RFx process across all participants
- Include rich 3D information and data from back-end systems
- Control and manage sensitive information inside and outside the firewall
- Manage corporate procurement guidelines by providing process auditability and traceability

Manufacturers face intense cost and competitive pressures. The imperative to innovate, combined with shorter product lifecycles and increasing customer expectations, has forced manufacturers to seek solutions that improve supplier collaboration throughout the supply chain. One of these processes, the high-touch, people-centric RFx process (Request for Quote, Request for Proposal, and Request for Information), demands many resources to pull together a diverse package of information—and then to control RFx distribution, evaluation, and notification. Historically paper-intensive, the entire RFx process draws from multiple sources of information and data including 3D design information, schematics, business data from back-end systems, pricing information, service-level and production requirements, governance and legal guidelines, deadlines, and contact information.

Automate the RFx process and engage with suppliers of all sizes, anywhere

Adobe helps manufacturers speed the RFx process so that they can more quickly and easily seek and secure bids—and ultimately bring better products to market, faster and cheaper. Adobe rich Internet applications (RIAs) can provide alert-based interfaces for back-end systems to proactively monitor inventory levels, supplier responses, and quality ratings. Manufacturers can include rich information packages in their RFx processes, protect sensitive information, and more easily meet stringent corporate procurement guidelines. Adobe helps reduce the overall complexity, time, and cost of the RFx process while improving collaboration and creating process efficiencies.

With Adobe solutions, manufacturers can:

- Automate, accelerate, and mange the RFx process—distribution, evaluation, notification
- Replace physical paper with digital paper to improve control while maintaining the comfortable look-and-feel of paper
- Include rich information such as 3D designs from CAD and PLM systems, data from back-end systems, and other file types such as Microsoft Office files
- Secure the RFx process and business-sensitive information inside and outside the firewall

Easily exchange data across people and systems

Adobe helps manufacturing organizations improve their strategic sourcing process by streamlining collaboration among suppliers, customers, partners, and employees. Manufacturers can capture and integrate 3D design information and business transaction data into XML-enabled Adobe® PDF forms for automated, round-trip RFx processing.

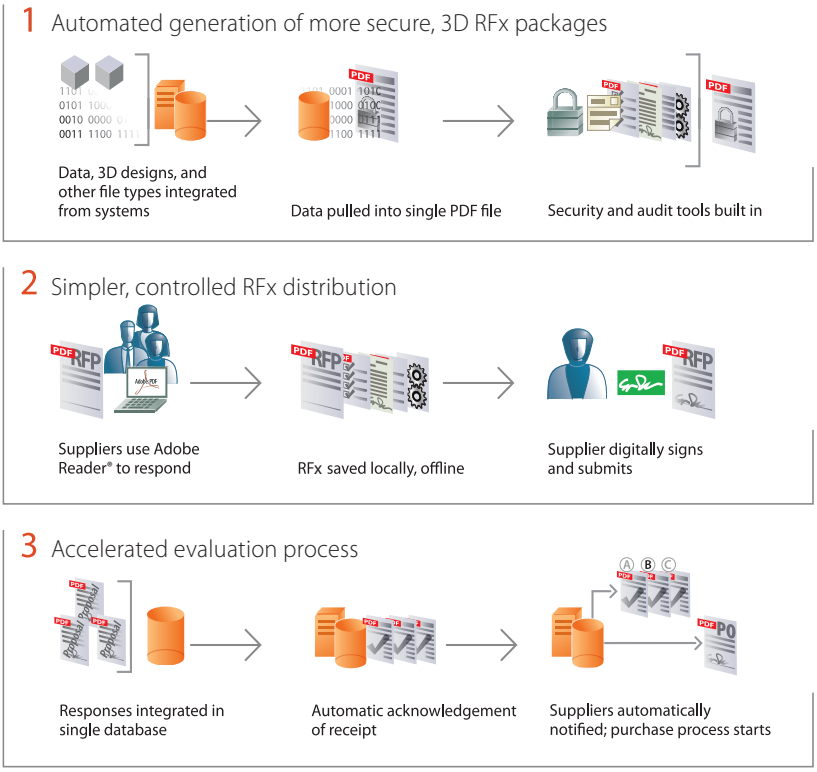
Adobe®

Adobe revolutionizes how the world engages with ideas and information—anytime, anywhere, and through any medium.

Adobe products that help automate, manage, and control extended manufacturing processes include:

- **Adobe Acrobat®**
- **Adobe Acrobat Pro Extended**
- **Adobe LiveCycle ES**
- **Adobe Flex®**

Adobe creates a more efficient and secure RFx process



Distribute customized RFx documents faster

With Adobe PDF, manufacturers can create documents that look exactly like their paper counterparts. They can also rapidly design and deploy customized, XML-enabled Adobe PDF forms without any coding, and build extended workflow processes that include 3D design information, back-end system data, and other file types. Suppliers can review and interact with these forms using free Adobe Reader software, so manufacturers reach more suppliers.

Control and manage the RFx process and sensitive information inside and outside the firewall

Adobe LiveCycle® ES (Enterprise Suite) technology helps ensure a document's authenticity, integrity, and confidentiality. Manufacturers can control access to RFx documents, specifying who can edit, print, copy, or forward them. They can also change the expiration dates or even revoke access to these RFx documents. These policy controls remain with a document wherever it goes, even offline or outside the corporate network. Additionally, manufacturers can help ensure that the RFx process adheres to procurement guidelines with audit tools that provide historical tracking information.

Engage more effectively and securely across the supply chain—anytime, anywhere

Adobe helps manufacturers automate processes that cross people and technology. Now organizations can use interactive, round-trip processes so that people can engage from within and outside the firewall. Extended processes such as RFx span silos of applications and departments, and business partners can greatly benefit from additional automation, management, and control. Manufacturers gain an RIA interface that is easy to use—and doesn't sacrifice the integrity of underlying supply chain and business processes. This solution allows them to improve supplier collaboration, reducing time to market while securing sensitive IP.

For more information
For more details about Adobe solutions for manufacturing, visit *www.adobe.com/manufacturing.*

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