



In association with:



PROFESSIONAL PLM
ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME

A managed and interactive learning programme for practitioners to improve their PLM professionalism.

Version 1.1

09 February 2024

Executive Summary

The Professional PLM Initiative aims to establish a well-defined, internationally-recognised professional structure for the PLM industry.

The collaboration involved in forming a Professional Body, and of establishing official qualifications and certification, will generate a new Body of PLM Knowledge and create new best practices that everyone can apply.

This process is complex and may take a couple of years to complete. There is a demand for PLM practitioners to be able to use this new material as soon as it is created.

The PLMIG has therefore devised the **Professional PLM Associate** programme to enable individual practitioners from all types of organisation to learn from this new neutral body of knowledge and tools, and make use of them in their own implementations.

This is not a route to a professional qualification in a few years' time, but a programme of active professional improvement that can be followed now. The 12-month programme runs throughout 2024. It is designed to expand the skills of the participant and also to be applicable to real-world PLM.

It enables practitioners from any part of the world, and at any level of experience, to access the same central pool of advanced PLM thought; enhance their career planning and horizons; interact with other Associates; and leverage the PLMIG to resolve actual live problems they encounter.

Thus the participants add value and improvement to themselves, their organisations and their implementations as they learn.

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1 THE PROGRAMME

The **Professional PLM Associate** programme is a structured combination of neutral knowledge and support that helps practitioners build and strengthen their careers while becoming more effective in their day-to-day roles.

2 LEARNING VS. CERTIFICATION

PLM certification will not exist until a future Professional Body has been formed, but the elements that comprise it will be created as the Professional PLM Initiative proceeds.

The **Associate** programme channels this material into a set of modules that can be followed and applied now. The participant learns from the neutral Body of Knowledge to expand his or her understanding of the principles and techniques of PLM.

3 SHARED EXPERIENCE

A key feature of the programme is that it is interactive. Participants can submit questions and ideas to the PLMIG, based on theory or relating to actual work scenarios; and can meet with each other in an on-line community to share issues and work-rounds.

4 BENEFITS

The programme enables participants to visualise and manage their career; to see in advance how their career may progress; and to make choices based on the evolving professional structure that will enhance that progress.

This initial orientation sets up the detailed programme, in which Associates cross-reference their skills against the Neutral Syllabus and map their ongoing techniques to the PLM Body of Knowledge. Participants then apply and respond to the written tools and methods that the programme provides.

The participant's organisation benefits from the enhanced skills applied to ongoing projects; can provide more effective training and career support; and can incorporate learnings and best practice from other participating companies as Associates liaise with each other over the course of the programme. Over time these effects lead to improvements in PLM visibility, operational effectiveness and governance.

There are also extensive corporate benefits in terms of global integration, with staff mobility across divisions and geographies, aligned to a common level of expertise.

5 METHODOLOGY

The **Associate** programme has 5 main elements:-

- Orientation / Mobilisation
- Monthly Material Feed
- Body of Knowledge
- Operational Q&A
- Associate Interaction

5.1 Orientation / Mobilisation

It is important that the participant has a clear picture of his or her career from the outset, to set the context in which the rest of the working material will be applied. Mobilisation commences with a 'Starter Pack' of career-positioning guidance to help the Associate think through this process and produce a personal career template.

5.2 Monthly Material Feed

The focus throughout is on 'understanding and implementation'. The monthly feed of practical working material expands the Associate's thinking and provides tools that can be used in practice to improve their ongoing in-house PLM operations.

The subjects covered by the feed are based around documentation from the PLMIG, with specific additions that relate to issues that Associates encounter during the course of the Foundation Stage.

5.3 Body of Knowledge

Wherever practitioners work, there is always the question of how much PLM experience they are gaining, or how what they are learning relates to what is known by those in other companies, in other parts of the world.

Associates can cross-reference what they are doing and learning against the neutral PLM Body of Knowledge, gaining from it and contributing to it as they do so.

5.4 Operational Q&A

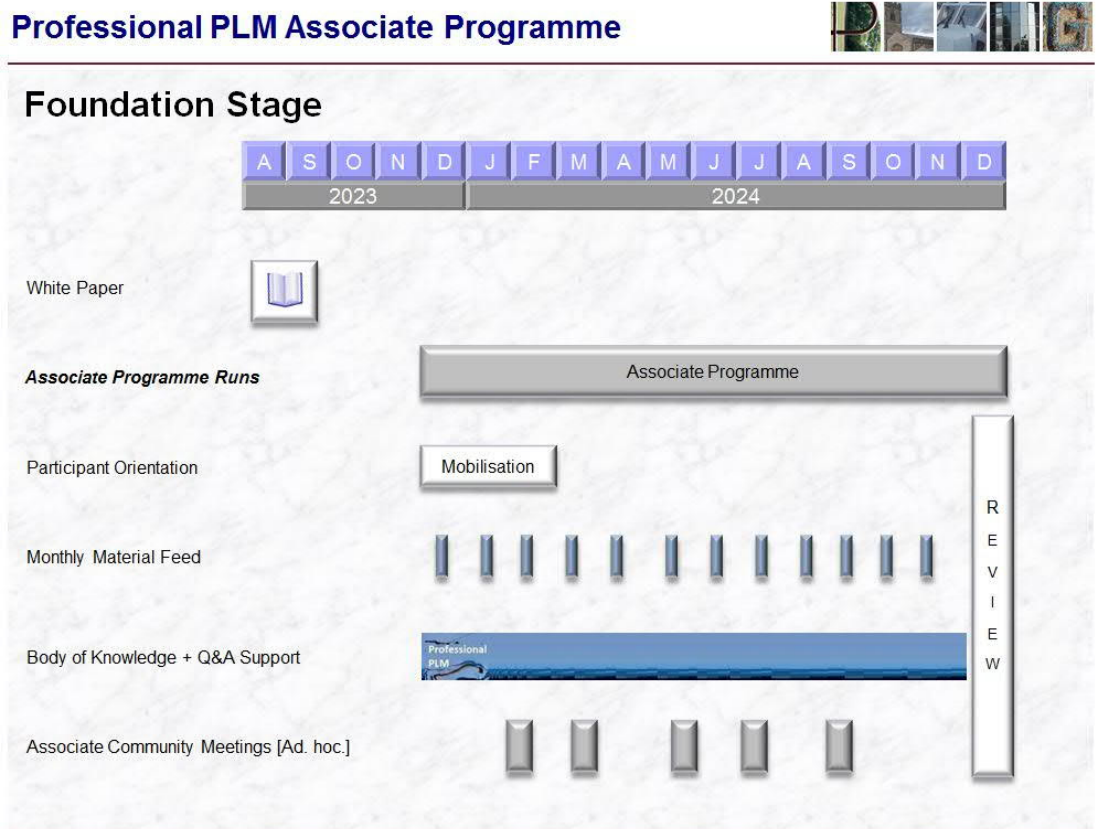
The Associate Programme is designed to provide practical help as well as education and development. Associates can send in A4-sized overviews of issues they are encountering, and receive a PLMIG response. Experience has shown that this ideas exchange is enough to break the implementation barrier and move forward.

5.5 Associate Interaction

On-line meetings will be arranged so that Associates can talk to and work with each other, on Agendas that they set for themselves. This enables them to share ideas and working techniques directly, at whatever level of detail they choose.

5.6 Programme Schedule

The planned timescale of the Associate Programme is as below.



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The Programme concludes with a group Review, to summarise the progress and learnings and to foresee any next steps.

6 HOW TO JOIN

The **Professional PLM Associate Programme** is run by the PLM Interest Group on behalf of the Professional PLM Initiative.

6.1 Participation Fee

The fee to join the Programme is €600 / £550 / \$700 per participant, plus UK VAT if applicable. This covers all elements of the Programme throughout the Foundation Stage from Mobilisation to Final Review.

6.2 Confidentiality

There is no requirement to reveal confidential information to participate in the Programme - everything can be rephrased in abstract terms as required.

However, as Associates use the Q&A and work together in detail, some confidential information may arise. The PLMIG undertakes to maintain this confidentiality, and to ensure that all published material is written in an entirely non-attributable format.

It is a condition of participation that Associates also undertake to maintain confidentiality outside their working groups.

6.3 Intellectual Property

Pre-existing Intellectual Property remains the property of the original owners. The PLMIG will retain the Intellectual Property of the Body of Knowledge and the working material. Associates and their organisations are free to use the working material and any other Intellectual Property accrued from their participation in any context apart from selling on for commercial gain.

6.4 How to Join

Download an Associate Form from the Professional PLM web site (below), or request a Form and any other information via associate@professionalplm.org.

More information about the Professional PLM initiative in general can be found at www.professionalplm.org.