



# Level up supply chain collaboration with Upchain Cloud PDM

Fuel collaboration with a single source of truth—integrated into your workflow





# Table of contents

- 1 Today's supply chain landscape
- 2 Introducing Upchain
- 3 Invite stakeholders—even external ones—into your processes
- 4 Work with any data regardless of file type
- 5 Speed up design and feedback cycles
- 6 Stay connected 24/7 with your supply chain
- 7 Ensure data consistency across all systems by integrating PLM, CRM, and ERP
- 8 Upchain summary



## Chapter 1

# Today's supply chain landscape

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are under pressure like never before—and that pressure is being felt throughout their entire supply chain.

Since the pandemic took its toll on global supply chains, product design and manufacturing has adapted to the 'New Normal'. But that doesn't mean issues related to data sharing and collaboration have gone away. Nor have other issues that surfaced during the pandemic. In reality, though, many of the industry's obstacles aren't new ones—they've simply been magnified by recent events.

Addressing these challenges, whether long-standing or recently emerging, can only really be achieved by re-inventing the way we work.

### Re-thinking stakeholder communication

From vendors and distributors to manufacturers and external collaborators – working in tandem, with one single source of truth has become a key part of supply chain collaboration.

We believe that, with effective product lifecycle management systems, you'll be able to overcome barriers, connect stakeholders and break down information silos. It's simply a question of how...







## Chapter 2

# Introducing Upchain

Upchain is a cloud-based PDM & PLM tool focused on supercharging your supply chain communication and collaboration—for you and every one of your stakeholders—anywhere in the world and anytime they need.

### **Accessible and web based**

Get your product data management and product lifecycle management software all in one, and enjoy configurable, out-of-the-box workflows.

### **Designed for collaboration**

Connect all the stakeholders in your supply chain, but with the CAD and business tools they already know.

### **Consistent and easy to integrate**

Unite PLM, CRM, ERP, and QMS system data to create a digital thread that ensures all information is traceable, all of the time.





## Chapter 3

# Invite stakeholders—even external ones—into your processes

Now that the bulk of manufacturing functions are done outside your organization, every project stakeholder demands up-to-date information. You need to get the right data to the right people—and at the right time.

On top of that, customer demand for more complicated products means manufacturers and designers need to manage denser data sets. Slow and disparate processes just haven't the efficiency to leverage the amount of information required for today's products. To control a greater volume of data that is not only more varied, but has to be processed at faster speeds, you need a solution that's both resilient and comprehensive.

### *With Upchain, you can...*

#### **Work with a familiar interface**

With all collaborators using recognizable, intuitive project dashboards that display

shared, up-to-date information, gaining visibility and insights into the project status is no longer a problem. In addition, thanks to Upchain's streamlined data sharing, the platform functions as a single source of truth.

#### **Plan with common goals and custom tasks**

With job-specific, real-time data, external stakeholders can have more immediate involvement within the workflow. Better for them, reassuring for you.

#### **Keep collaborators aligned**

Each collaborator can set up their own, individualized dashboard, showing specific tasks, goals and activity streams. They can also keep organized with checklists for specific assignments and use favorite tools for quick access to documents or designs.

## What happens when you integrate Upchain into your workflows?

Before	After
Manual, disconnected processes	Automated workflows
Lack of visibility	Relevant data transparency
Dense, disparate databases	Single source of truth



## Chapter 4

# Work with any data, regardless of file type

Like it or not, remote working has become the norm, so your choice of digital tools is critical. (For teams and stakeholders alike, nothing hinders efficiency like training to use new software.)

Upchain allows you to stay with the tools you already know, so there's no need for translators or workarounds. More importantly, there's no requirement for third-party applications when you need to share files, data, or assets with stakeholders who don't use the same tools you do.

### ***With Upchain, you can...***

#### **Integrate with CAD and business tools**

Upchain allows you to work with different authoring tools and use plugins that understand different file dependencies.

Now teams can collaborate whether they're using Autodesk Inventor, Solidworks, Creo, Microsoft file types and more.

#### **Enjoy the benefits of a CAD-agnostic system**

While CAD-using stakeholders can check in and collaborate on processes, non-CAD users can still see the same data. That's because every collaborator has access to CAD-like capabilities without having to own exactly the same tools. This makes for simpler communication throughout the design process.

#### **Manage every document**

With Upchain, you have one common, easy-to-use environment with a single data and document management system. This you can customize with different access levels.

## What happens when you use Upchain as a shared tool, available throughout your supply chain?

Before	After
Translate services	A singular platform for viewing
Emails with screenshots	Markups captured and communicated
Out of date PDFs	Data duplication removed



## Chapter 5

# Speed up design and feedback cycles

In just a few years, product development has grown steadily faster. Alongside it, so have the three V's of product development data; volume, velocity, and variety. For everyone to keep up, there has to be a more dynamic approach.

With traditional product life management systems, 80% of the product cost is built in during the first 20% of the development process. As a result, small changes early on can cause huge ripples later. That's because traditional PLM systems are purely one-directional.

***With Upchain, you can...***

### **Take advantage of a 2-way PLM system**

Now suppliers, customers, partners, and contract manufacturers can be involved earlier in the process, preventing costs escalating at later stages.

### **Speed up review cycles**

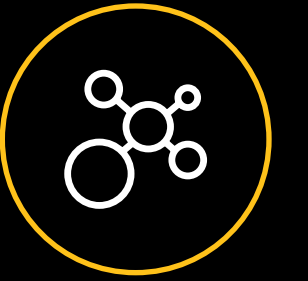
Those who need to feedback can do so faster, speeding up innovation and improving time to market.

### **Standardize supplier workflows**

With more stakeholders involved at key times during the process, better decision making can lead to greater product quality.

## What happens to your feedback cycle when you incorporate Upchain?

Before	After
Constant email miscommunication	Holistic processes
"fire and forget"	Collaboration
Outdated PDF drawings	Rich visualization of 3D models



## Chapter 6

# Stay connected with your supply chain 24/7

The great thing about data is it never sleeps. So, while the challenges posed by remote working are more evident—and the need to keep everyone on the same page more important—having all your project data and asset information in the same place can work to every stakeholder’s advantage.

Because now, from first quote to final design change, everyone can be kept up to date, regardless of organization, location, or even time zone.

### *With Upchain, you can...*

#### **Automate supplier RFQs**

See design changes immediately, without unnecessary communication.

Get responses to quotes faster, and react to updates more efficiently.

#### **Use templates to simplify quoting and ordering**

Streamline the quotation process by sharing with suppliers the information that’s unique to them and their quote—all in a standardized format.

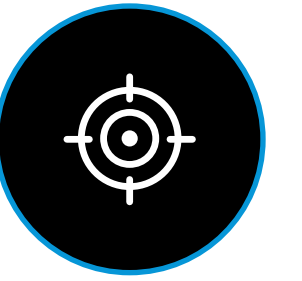
#### **Share confidently and securely**

Through the security of their own personalized portal, suppliers can visualize and interact with models and RFQs.

## How does communication improve when using Upchain as a common collaboration platform?

Before	After
Series of screen captures	Standardized template for RFQs
Simple emails	Secure and granular access to data
Inconvenient meetings and calls	A timely feedback loop from outside stakeholders





## Chapter 7

# Ensure data consistency across systems by integrating PLM, CRM, and ERP

While successfully connecting data is the ultimate goal, bringing that data from all your systems and merging everything into one isn't without its problems. The idea of PLM platforms is to bring all product development and implementation data into one place, but in today's fast-paced world, where software updates and product launches happen constantly, this isn't easily accomplished.

Instead, a more feasible solution is to collect high-quality enterprise data to create a digital thread. This thread—uniting PLM, CRM, ERP, and QMS system data—ensures that all information is always traceable. The ability to go back and find any data, changes or updates not only improves product quality, it also drastically reduces risk.

### *With Upchain, you can...*

#### **Integrate your business systems**

Removing discipline-specific software from your workflows allows you to break apart information silos, synthesize data and make workflows truly connected.

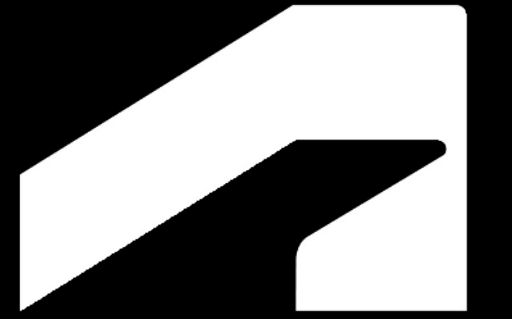
#### **Open REST Services API**

Because it integrates with any type of enterprise system, you can use Upchain's PDM and PLM capabilities in tandem with your own enterprise resource planning. You can Input design, engineering, and NPI information from Upchain's PLM systems into your ERP system. Meanwhile, you can move manufacturing and finance data from your ERP system into Upchain. Either way, you'll have a seamless digital thread across people, processes, data, and technology.

## What happens to your data visualization between systems with Upchain?

Before	After
"Islands of Automation"	A true Digital Thread
Endless spreadsheets	Intuitive real-time dashboards
Data re-entry	Enter once or "set and forget"





## Chapter 8

# Upchain in summary

In short, Upchain is cloud-based PDM and PLM software all in one. With configurable, out-of-the-box workflows to keep your projects moving, plus CAD and business tools teams and stakeholders already know, Upchain takes supply chain collaboration to the next level.

For more about connecting your data, processes and people more easily, visit our Upchain product center here:

[autodesk.com/products/upchain/overview](https://autodesk.com/products/upchain/overview)

**Ensure data consistency**  
across all your business systems  
by integrating PLM, CRM and ERP



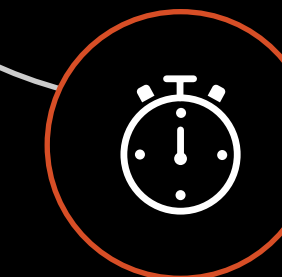
**Invite stakeholders**  
into your processes including  
those outside your organization

**Stay connected**  
24/7 with your supply chain



**Work with any data**  
regardless of file type

**Speed up development**  
design and feedback cycle



**upchain**  
AN AUTODESK COMPANY





Autodesk, the Autodesk logo, Inventor, and DWG are registered trademarks or trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates in the USA and/or other countries.

All other brand names, product names, or trademarks belong to their respective holders. Autodesk reserves the right to alter product and services offerings, and specifications and pricing at any time without notice, and is not responsible for typographical or graphical errors that may appear in this document. © 2021 Autodesk, Inc. All rights reserved.