



Component and Supplier Management

i2 Component and Supplier Management™ (CSM) is a best-in-class catalog and content search solution used to improve sourcing and procurement processes. It can be used by a variety of users within a company such as product development, purchasing and commodity managers, operations, as well as sales and customer service staff.

i2 CSM is an integral part of the i2 Supplier Relationship Management™ (SRM) solution and can provide a comprehensive and powerful catalog solution as well as enable material and supplier management relevant to i2 SRM applications.

Powerful as a Stand-Alone Solution

Reduce Total Cost of Purchasing for Direct and Indirect Materials

i2 CSM can reduce purchased material costs for both direct and indirect materials by reducing the number of parts and suppliers through data normalization, cross-referencing, and through a structured new part and supplier introduction process.

i2 CSM acts as a reuse engine to improve the use of preferred materials and vendors and help product development adhere to sourcing strategies for approved parts by program as well as attain design-for-supply metrics and cost targets. When used to manage maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) items, it can help reduce downtime of production equipment, lower repair cycle times, minimize stocked inventory as well as improve overall cost and supply risk.

Improve Visibility of Materials and Suppliers by Rationalizing Part and Supplier Master

Companies that have grown through acquisitions or that use multiple ERP or PLM systems across different sites and divisions often end up maintaining multiple master data sources. The common result is thousands of duplicate part numbers and supplier names that lack intelligent cross-referencing capabilities to help companies determine what they're buying from which vendor.

i2 CSM is designed to improve productivity by providing users with a single solution to access part and supplier information that is crucial for transaction and decision-support applications. The foundation is a part and supplier management solution that can aggregate information from multiple systems and normalize data. This can enable powerful parametric searching on the corporate item master and include reference catalogs such as the IHS Electronics Database. The solution is deployed with i2's world-class analytic services that can identify and eliminate duplicates and apply cross-referencing rules to bring users to the best source for a given part.

Increased Productivity through Ease of Use and High Find Ratio

i2 CSM can allow users to conduct powerful parametric part searches with dynamic filtering in both internal and external databases to quickly identify duplicate parts and functional equivalents. The solution can guide buyers and maintenance engineers to select preferred parts and suppliers with best price performance.

Improve Search with Multiple Find Methods

Users can enter keywords and enable the search engine to do the work of specifying and running parametric searches, or browsing the catalog hierarchy and viewing all permissible items at any level. Power users can also navigate to the category of interest and either deploy a smart search or assign values for category-specific attributes. These find methods take advantage of i2's content expertise in aggregating and cross-referencing data from manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors.

Leverage Powerful Refine and Analysis Tools

i2 CSM can automatically categorize results spanning multiple catalog categories in a single click. Users can sort these results by any parameter, or click a parameter and specify desired values from a qualified list. Results can be viewed in a user-tested table or image views by comparing items across all available attributes, with details such as customer-specific pricing.

Flexible Integration to ERP and Other Transaction Systems

i2 CSM can enable seamless workflows to enable effective requisitioning and driving compliance for preferred materials, spares, and suppliers.

- Organize selections in lists for future reuse or submittal to transaction systems.
- Create multiple sharable lists. Create, save, and share lists of items and suppliers for reuse. Lists can be shared with group members—within your enterprise or enterprise-wide, and even across enterprises.

Capabilities and Features

User-Friendly Content Search Capability

- Smart search includes thesaurus, stemming, concept, and fuzzy matching
- Browse by category includes hierarchy display or alphabetical index and category search
- Browse by category can be used with smart search
- Save and share search criteria
- Advanced search includes parametric search, a unified schema, and cross-references

Powerful Data Analysis and Search Refinement Capability

- Refine results by category and/or attributes
- Leverage different views of data such as manufacturer content, supplier content, buyer content, images, and normalized prices
- Compare items or companies by available attributes
- Lowest price analyzer
- Find requests for quotes (RFQs) and articles in distributed content sources containing selected items, supplier and/or matching item, and supplier attributes
- View item-level details such as specifications, pricing and availability — multiple pricing models available, documents, notes, alternates, components/where used, accessories, and find alternate suppliers
- View company-level details such as company attributes, contacts, categories served, documents, and promotions

Robust and Flexible Integration Framework

i2 CSM and the i2 SRM suite work with the i2 platform to provide powerful workflow and data integration capabilities in an XML-based SOA architecture that can be used to:

- Work seamlessly within a complex, multi-system enterprise environment to aggregate and exchange part and supplier master information
- Coordinate cross-functional request and approval workflows for enterprise new part or supplier introductions
- Leverage external third-party web services that provide additional part information, supplier profile or related information
- Extend and enrich the application user interface to better support internal business users

User-Specific Organization and Administration Capability for Personalized Home Page

- Ability to personalize channels for finding, lists, shortcuts, and news, as well as alerts from distributed content sources
- User personalization includes the setting of viewable pages on the home page, default views of information on pages, default display language, preferred currency, etc.
- List management supports adding of items and companies to lists and saving for reuse, adding links to enable distributed content sources, merging of lists, and sharing lists with defined groups

Multiple Language Support

- Locale-independent data, such as primary keys of an item, is typically always in one language
- Locale-dependent data, such as number, date, time, and currency, is typically entered once and the software handles the conversion based on user preferences
- Locale-specific data, such as item description in several languages, is entered directly in its original form
- Ability to handle properties such as VAT, whose existence is dependent on only certain locales
- Support for localized user interface in sixteen different languages

For more information on i2 Component and Supplier Management and other i2 solutions, visit www.i2.com.



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