Obsolescence Management
With Strategy and Vision toward the Long-Term Availability of Electronic Systems
Obsolescence Management
Discontinued? What now?

„Obsolescence is unavoidable and cannot be prevented but visionary and careful planning can minimize its effects and its potential high costs.“ DIN 62402:2007

Motivation

Obsolescence is the lack of delivery by the original supply source and the consequent lack of availability due to various influences.

- The result of Obsolescence is that the required product availability, which can exceed 50 years in many business sectors, can no longer be achieved.

- In addition, an efficient strategy for handling Product Change Notifications (PCNs) and Product Discontinuance Notifications (PDNs) is absolutely necessary.

Advantages of active Obsolescence Management at TQ:

- Combination of the services offered in any manner
- Early identification of at-risk components
- Avoid unexpected redesigns and re-qualifications
- Dispense with high-cost Brokerware
- Overview of the total product lifecycle cost
- Flexible operating times
- Above-average on-time delivery performance
- Highest data quality via active integration into the supply chain
- A direct contact in our OM corporate department
- Consistency due to clearly defined, stable processes

Influencing factors

Consequently, active Obsolescence Management designed for an individual case is a condition for:

- products that are available over the long term
- a product lifecycle optimized for cost
- high supply security coming from early risk reduction
Three-Pillar Model

The portfolio of Obsolescence Management by TQ Systems comprises short-term, medium-term and long-term solution approaches as per the following three pillars:

- Reactive Obsolescence Management
- Proactive Obsolescence Management
- Strategic Obsolescence Management

Within these three pillars, the services offered by TQ Systems can be combined any way you want.

Please contact us about any other requests you have!

Reactive Obsolescence Management

If you get a discontinuation announcement, Obsolescence Management from TQ Systems comprises the following reactive services:

The EOL-/PCN service
immediately passes on change notices or discontinuations for individual components to our customers. The subsequent process for system assurance is then individually customized with the affected customer.

Searching for alternatives and substitution
We offer you a systematic global search for alternatives to your discontinued modules. Substitutes offer you a “Form, fit and function” replacement and can be integrated into your design without extra expenditure.

Long-term storage
We offer our customers cost-effective storage of electronic components and (sub)systems in accordance with DIN CLC/TS 50466:2006 and IPC/JEDEC J-STD-033A. This storage uses nitrogen cabinets to completely retain your items’ function and processability, guaranteed by constant temperature and humidity control.

Additional services are offered in close cooperation with our Development Department to solve your Obsolescence problem:

Reclamation
At the customer’s request, used modules may also be recycled. To do this, the desired modules are unsoldered from old systems, tested and then soldered into the system undergoing maintenance.

Redesign
A redesign can be performed to adapt obsolete assemblies to current demand and the availability of modules.

Reverse engineering
Reverse engineering consists of the complete redevelopment of a subassembly using the provided specifications and documentation of an obsolete subassembly based on current component availability.

Emulation
In contrast to reverse engineering, here a functional replica is created from the obsolete subassembly without existing documents.
Proactive Obsolescence Management

To preclude any unexpected discontinuation and to be able to estimate the current component situation of your systems, we support you with proactive services:

Analysis of the bill of materials
Based on your bill of materials, the status and lifecycle state of each individual component is determined. Among other items, you receive information on possible alternatives, vendors with inventory on hand and a current average price.

A high degree of data quality is ensured with three types of investigation:
- Active investigation in the supply chain
- Internal ERP system investigation
- Investigation in an external global database

The analysis of the bill of materials can identify potentially at-risk components early on. These components can then be checked continuously using Monitoring (see: Strategic Obsolescence Management). This measure can be performed once or repeated at defined intervals.

Availability forecast
Based on the analysis of the bill of materials, we can provide an availability forecast.

SAP Obsolescence traffic light
The monitoring process for individual components is represented efficiently and in a productive manner in the ERP system using an Obsolescence traffic light developed by TQ.

Strategic Obsolescence Management

In strategic Obsolescence Management, we provide the most comprehensive and most effective tool. In this area, our portfolio breaks down as follows:

Component management
In Component management, the current availability situation for components already in the development process is analyzed prior to creating bills of materials. This allows components to be selected strategically with regard to long-term product availability.

Obsolescence Management plan
An Obsolescence Management plan is based on a previous analysis of the bill of materials (see: Proactive Obsolescence Management) and is created in parallel with the development effort in the ideal case. During this activity, an overview of the complete system lifecycle is created and all actions that may possibly occur are scheduled. This can then be used to derive a detailed statement of costs.

New development
Together with our Development Department, we also offer you a complete development effort for a new product with a view toward the long-term availability.

Audit
If in-house Obsolescence Management has already been implemented in your company, we would be glad to support you with an audit. This would be individually tailored to your business sector and your company to provide you with the maximum possible added value. After the audit, the actions needed can be defined.

Monitoring
Bills of material, or selected components, are loaded into an external global database and are monitored there. You have the option of defining which of the automatically generated messages you want to receive from the component monitoring. All PCN and EOL messages for the components are sent to an e-mail address you specify. This provides you with early, comprehensive information.
You benefit from our expertise:

Member of COG-Deutschland (Component Obsolescence Group)

Certified quality:

DIN EN ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management)
DIN EN ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management)
EN 9100:2009 (Aviation)
EN ISO 13485:2014 (Medical)
ISO/TS 16949:2009 (Automotive)

Active collaboration in the „PCB and Electronic Services“ committee of the ZVEI (German electrical and electronic manufacturers’ association)