The Role of Quality Management

in Future Innovation Processes for Smart Products

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Digitalization and connection as a core element of "Industry 4.0"



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Future products are smart: 'Smart' Toothbrush



Pictures: Braun, ComputerBild

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Video: Youtube.com

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Future products are smart



- Toothbrush connects to smartphones via Bluetooth
- Evaluation of the 'brushing performance'
- Integrate brushing plan in coordination with the dentist

Pictures: Braun, ComputerBild

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Characteristics of 'Smart Products'

- Digital representation of products, connected to the physical world
- Products are 'aware' of their manufacturing parameters, their current location and state
- Seven attributes of Smart Products:
 - Autonomy
 - Adaption
 - Reactivity
 - Multi-functionality
 - Cooperation
 - Humanlike Interaction
 - Personality



Changes and challenges for future innovation processes

Suitable application scenarios

- Threat: 'digital customer mismatch'
- Adaption of product to customer behavior



Smart product usability

- Smart user interfaces (e.g. force feedback)
- Design of intuitive digital operability



Smart defect management

- Digital multi-functionality: increasing error possibilities
- Availability of defect information by product intelligence



Rapid and interdisciplinary product development

- Cooperation of different disciplines (e.g. ICT, legal)
- Global pressure for rapid and costefficient innovation



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Recording of suitable application scenarios with data mining and social media analysis

Changes

- Products as parts of a network
- Rapid data processing due to increasing computer performance
- Social Media platforms provide authentic field data

Challenges

- Handling of all relevant data (e.g. online customer reviews)
- Data protection in particular in personal data
- Guarantee of informational self-determination

Research Approaches

- Gaining knowledge of the behavior, errors and the use of products at the customer (e.g. Transforming linguistic pattern into algorithms)
- Customized services regarding maintenance and repair







Improving product features for different application scenarios.

Pictures: business2community.com

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Optimizing usability experience by designing 'Perceived Quality'

Changes

- Digitalization of smart products leads to functional enhancement
- Smart interfaces (e.g. force feedback) offer new possibilities for designing usability
- Challenge: Design of intuitive product operability despite increasing functional complexity

Research Approaches

- Design of user interfaces and product perception by applying the 'Perceived Quality' approach
- Correlation of technical product features with the subjective customer evaluation for an optimal product specification





Increasing customer satisfaction by selective design of product perception.





Smart defect management by defect coding approaches

Changes

- Increasing error possibilities by digital multifunctionality
- Availability of defect information by product intelligence

Challenges

- Handling and consolidation of heterogeneous defect data from different sources (Smart products, Manufacturing Execution Systems)
- Filtering and analysis of large amounts of feedback data

Research Approaches

- Development of defect coding procedures for a consistent defect language
- Use of data based analysis approaches for intelligent and rapid defect detection

System border

Failure pattern

Rootcause
Failure
Symptom

Action
Support of the second second



Efficient use of defect knowledge for rapid product optimization.

Picture: www.bertrandt.com





Rapid and interdisciplinary product development with an agile approach

Changes

- Smart product development requires cooperation of different disciplines (e.g. engineering, ICT, legal)
- Global pressure for rapid and cost-efficient innovation
- Opportunities for customer integration into product development



- Measuring and controlling product maturity enhancement
- Synchronizing development teams for parallelized component development
- Ensuring a proven product development in due time
- Research Approaches
 - Transferring agile development concepts from software development to smart product development



Rapid and flexible innovation processes by applying agile development concepts.

Pictures: www.zprinter.de, www.chip.de





Rapid validation with rapid prototyping in agile development processes

Changes

- Faster and more cost-effective production of prototypes by 3D printers
- Higher use of prototypes for product validation

Challenges

- Balance between virtual and real prototypes for product reviews
- Integration of models in all in product development involved departments
- Non-transparent market environment regarding 3D printers

Research Approaches

- Development of reference processes that provide at selected points a particular prototype application
- Optimizing the production process (production time, quality, costs)
- Development of test planning based on prototypes

Early concept validation and consumer acceptance analysis with 3D printing.

Pictures: www.zprinter.de, www.chip.de

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- Smart products are real; however, they contain virtual models and will rely on them
- Their integration into the "real world scenarios" will rather affect customers perception than technical features
- Integrated toolkits will allow for collecting quality data in real time
- Availability of data will foster new quality management paradigms ("six sigma in seconds")





Thank you very much for your attention.

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