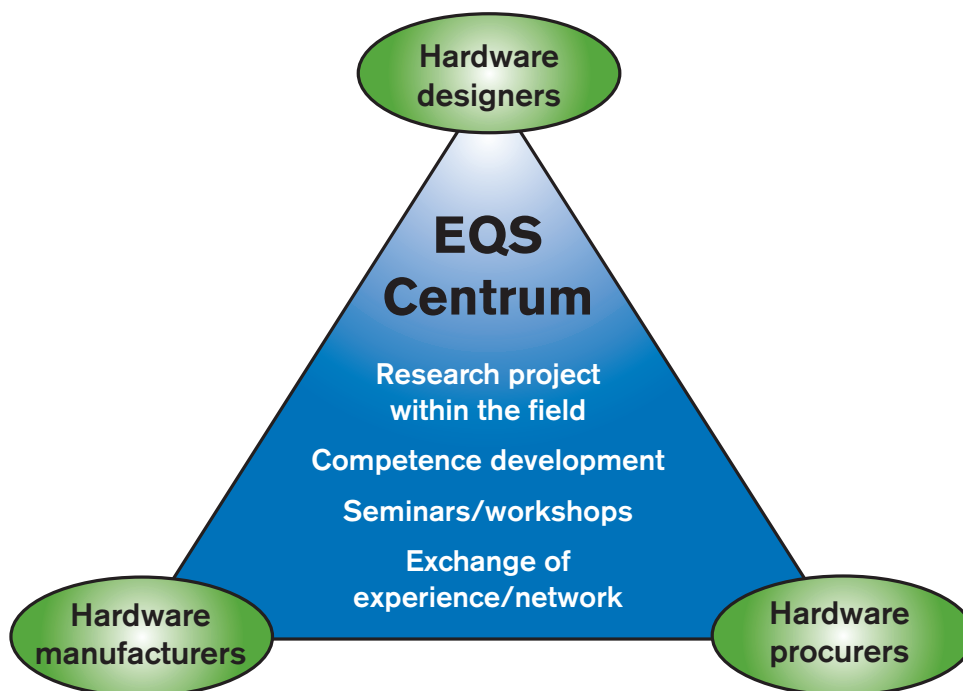


EQS Centrum

Quality of Electronics through Collaboration and Lean Product Development

The research centre EQS Centrum commences operation in the spring of 2008 and is a collaboration between Swerea IVF, Swerea KIMAB and the electronics industry. The objective of the centre is to develop a modus operandi, tools and knowledge to enable participating companies to achieve more efficient product development of electronic hardware. Focus is placed on ensuring quality during product development and also on the procurement of electronic components from suppliers. EQS Centrum will develop methods and knowledge to enable companies to work in accordance with lean product development. The target group is companies designing and manufacturing electronic hardware, their suppliers as well as companies that buy in completed electronic components for integration in their own products.

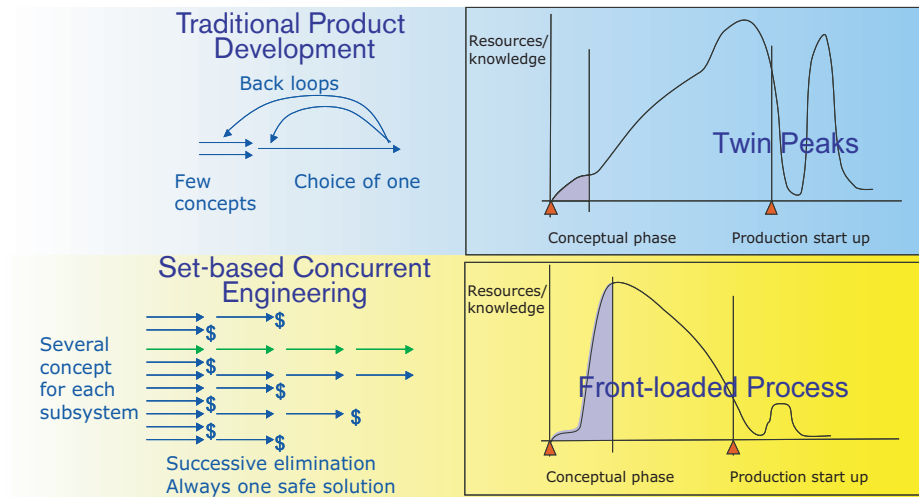


The Challenge

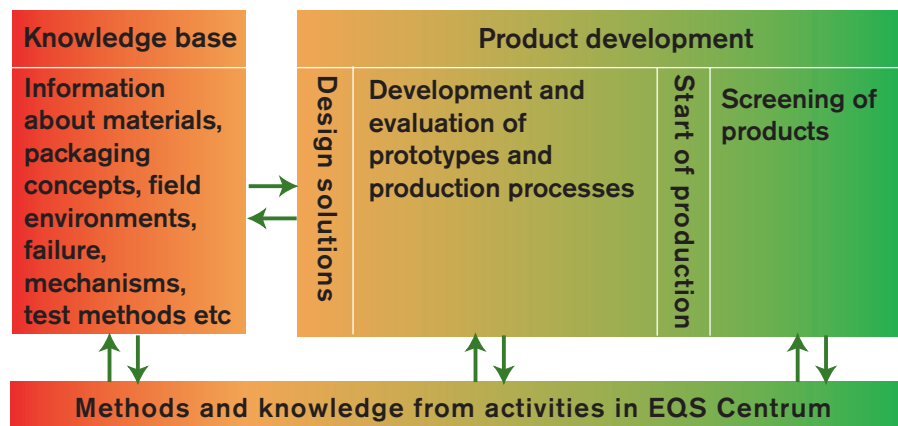
The rapid pace of development of new materials, components and manufacturing methods for electronic hardware offers great opportunities to improve functionality and reduce manufacturing costs. The implementation of new technology however always includes an element of risk, especially as manufacturing methods become ever more advanced and complex. The greatest threat posed is delays in the product launch due to late changes in design. Other significant risks are early failures (Infant mortality) and reliability issues. Therefore, the competence to select the right design is becoming ever more important in competitive industries.

Lean product Development

Over the last few years, Toyota's concept for lean product development has received ever more attention here in Sweden, mostly from industries outside the electronics industry. Set-based Concurrent Engineering" within lean product development is a working methodology for quickly and efficiently finding the best design. This is accomplished by parallel evaluation of several design solutions.



Set-based Concurrent Engineering entails evaluation early in the product development process as to how the different designs affect quality. The aim of EQS Centrum is to, through collaboration between electronic companies, build the knowledge base required to be able to conduct such an evaluation as quickly and efficiently as possible.



The Companies Control the Direction of Activities

Operations commence in the spring of 2008. Participating companies will decide the size and direction of projects within EQS Centrum. A more detailed description of EQS Centrum is available that outlines three proposed projects for the first year within the area of new reliability risks with lead free soldering: Brittle Fractures in Soldered Seams, Formation of Tin Whiskers and The Formation of Conductive Anodic Filaments (CAF) in Circuit Boards.

Working teams will be created, for example for the characterisation of operating environments and/or test strategies for verification of reliability and durability during the product design process.

More information about EQS Centrum is available from <http://extra.swereaivf.se/eqs>

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