

Who Should Take the Lead in Managing Obsolescence?

Converge, and the [Future of Obsolescence Management \(FOM\)](#), conducted a poll asking the community who should lead obsolescence management. Only 13% felt manufacturers should lead due to their lifecycle control, while 9% thought supply chain partners should take charge because of their intermediary role. 17% believed end users should lead, given their ultimate control and need to monitor product success. A significant 61%, however, advocated for a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders.

Manufacturers control the product lifecycle and are suitable for managing obsolescence, while supply chain partners have comprehensive supply chain insights. End users, responsible for their product's success, need to be proactive but face communication challenges regarding Product Change Notifications (PCNs) and end-of-life (EOL) notices.

A collaborative effort combines the unique strengths of each stakeholder to ensure a resilient supply chain. Effective management requires clear communication, transparent information sharing, and robust support systems. Trusted partners and databases can help navigate obsolescence challenges. The strong response for a collective approach emphasized that only through joint efforts can solve future obsolescence management.

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