

## **End User Invitation**

On behalf of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN) is evaluating the potential benefits of STEP in reducing interoperability costs for the exchange of product data. Interoperability problems arise when members of the supply chain create technical data using different design, manufacturing, engineering, or product data management (PDM) software applications. As a member of an industry that is actively involved in product design and engineering, you have unique insights into the product data exchange problem. The information you provide will help NIST better assess the benefits of STEP and the needs of this portion of the manufacturing sector, thereby allowing NIST to channel future investments towards projects that best meet those needs. The data from this questionnaire will be used to revise projections made in NIST Planning Report 02-5 (<http://www.nist.gov/director/planning/upload/report02-5.pdf>).

Please answer the questions in the questionnaire provided on the URL listed below with reference to your work on design and development of components and systems for projects with OEMs and second-tier suppliers. This questionnaire is confidential and voluntary. Please feel free to collaborate with your colleagues when answering these questions. No one outside of RDN, Inc. will see your personal or company information. Data you provide will only be used in aggregate with other companies and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of RDN, Inc. and CIMdata. We need your help to make sure we have the very best information possible and greatly appreciate your time and efforts

**URL:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QYYSQ29>

All responses will be kept strictly confidential.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important effort. If you have any questions please contact Brianna Briggs ([Brianna@rdniehaus.com](mailto:Brianna@rdniehaus.com)) or Ian Monsma ([Ian@rdniehaus.com](mailto:Ian@rdniehaus.com)) or toll-free at 1-800-350-4888.

Thank you for participating in this questionnaire.