

Recap of Day I

SRI ELN Conference
Philadelphia Feb 27/28 2006



Project implementation

- There's a reasonable consensus that you need to approach the ELN problem in parts
 - *We've heard a number of case studies where they've successfully addressed one group's needs*
 - *And are now working towards other groups*
- Carefully managing the implementation and roll out is critical
 - *Cultural aspects are terribly important*
 - *Perhaps more so than in traditional projects*
- ELNs are a great Knowledge Management tool
 - *But managing that aspect up-front is crucial*

Chemists & the others

- Clear that organic chemists are the best served by the current crop of ELN products
 - *Biologists seem to be next on the “To do” list*
 - *“Everyone else” seem to be lost in the noise right now*
- The open question
 - *Does need for a generic Biology ELN exist?*
 - *If so, what does it look like?*

ELNs are an Integration problem

- Clearly, no one supplier can do it all
 - *Despite what we'd like*
 - *Everyone is getting more realistic*
 - *As the market matures, the different centers of gravity are becoming clear*
- Customers are rightfully expecting their suppliers to collaborate & integrate with others
 - *Some are making this a condition of purchase*
- Prepare for this in your acquisition process
 - *Structuring your project so you can source components from different sources is an important success criteria*
 - *Doesn't mean you have to, but it means you can if you need to*

ELNs are partnerships

- The case studies emphasised the close degree of partnership between vendor and customer
 - *Even adjusting for the fact that these are case studies*
- You are buying the vendors experience & attitude as much as the product itself

Technical aspects

- The technical issues of ELNs aren't that much of a concern
 - *We've heard very little about the technical detail*
 - *No hint of significant problems*
- Although you will hear from Array later today about the benefits in significant investment in informatics integration capability to enhance your acquisition of off-the-shelf components

Openness

- Long-term vendor-independent access to your data is still a concern
- Many of us have concerns this area is getting overlooked
- The move to Electronic

Electronic Records for Patents

- There's now no doubt that paperless systems can replace the Bound Lab Notebook for patent purposes
- We're starting to see a few implementations
 - *We're seeing "early signals" not "widespread adoption"*
 - *It will take time for clarity to emerge*
- There's still uncertainty around
 - *Best practices*
 - *Technologies*
 - *Appropriateness of electronic & paper systems*

This morning's sessions

- 8:10 - 8:40 Panel: Defining discussions
- 8:40 - 9:10 Panel: IP issues
- 9:10 - 9:40 Presentation: Dan Weaver, Array
- 9:40 - 10:10 Presentation: John Helfrich, VelQuest
- 10:10 - 10:50 Break
- 10:50 Track A & B