



EXPERTISE MEETS INNOVATION: A PLM SUCCESS STORY FROM LANCASTER AND CENTRIC SOFTWARE

A close-up photograph of several yellow leather items, likely bags or pouches, arranged diagonally. The items have a fine, vertical ribbed texture and are stitched along their edges. The word "LANCASTER" is printed in a gold-colored, serif font on the side of one of the larger items. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellow.

LANCASTER

TRADITION, TREND AND TIMELESSNESS

Since 1990, Lancaster has created handbags, leather goods and accessories that blend traditional materials and techniques with a timeless sense of design. The brand's mission is to empower women to express their personalities through high-quality handbags designed to accompany them everywhere they go. Each Lancaster product offers luxury at an accessible price point, allowing customers to carry through their personal identity whenever a new trend inspires them.

Today, Lancaster is a leader in leather goods in its native France and 60 more countries around the world. The company produces 1.5 million items per year across its Lancaster, Element and Lancaster Spirit lines, which are sold through a network of more than 1,000 retail outlets.



ACCELERATING PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

To optimize their way of working and seize new market growth opportunities, the Parisian company chose Centric 8 PLM. "In today's leather goods market, quick development is essential," explains Thomas Tchen, Lancaster's founder and CEO, "so it was imperative for us to accelerate our design, creation and development process."

To achieve its multinational, multi-brand vision, Lancaster embarked on a rigorous technology selection process to ensure that the brand found the best possible partner.

"Today, innovative technologies like Centric Software PLM are vital tools for traditional companies like Lancaster," continues Tchen. "These solutions allow us to create products more quickly, to adapt our overall product offer for different markets and, at the same time, also to eliminate delays in the development of individual products. We chose Centric PLM on the basis of its usability and flexibility and also because it is the PLM solution that best fits our industry."



To meet the needs of our international customer base, we have to be capable of delivering new products and new colorways at any moment, and Centric 8 helps us to respond to this challenge



Challenges

- + Reduce time to market
- + Accelerate the creation and development of products
- + Create a comprehensive, global view of collections
- + Support a multinational, multi-brand vision



A MANDATE FOR MOBILITY

Centric Software's suite of mobile applications, which synchronize product data with PLM and empower collaboration across different departments and devices, was also a significant factor in Lancaster's decision to implement the solution.

"Centric PLM is accessible everywhere, from desktop to tablet to mobile applications," explains Tchen. "The modern world is mobile, with teams travelling to trade shows or visiting customers and partners overseas. In a market as competitive as leather goods, it is essential to use the right tools to capture market share; the mobility of Centric PLM allows us to share information in real-time and to refine our product development strategies and assortment mix by geographical area."

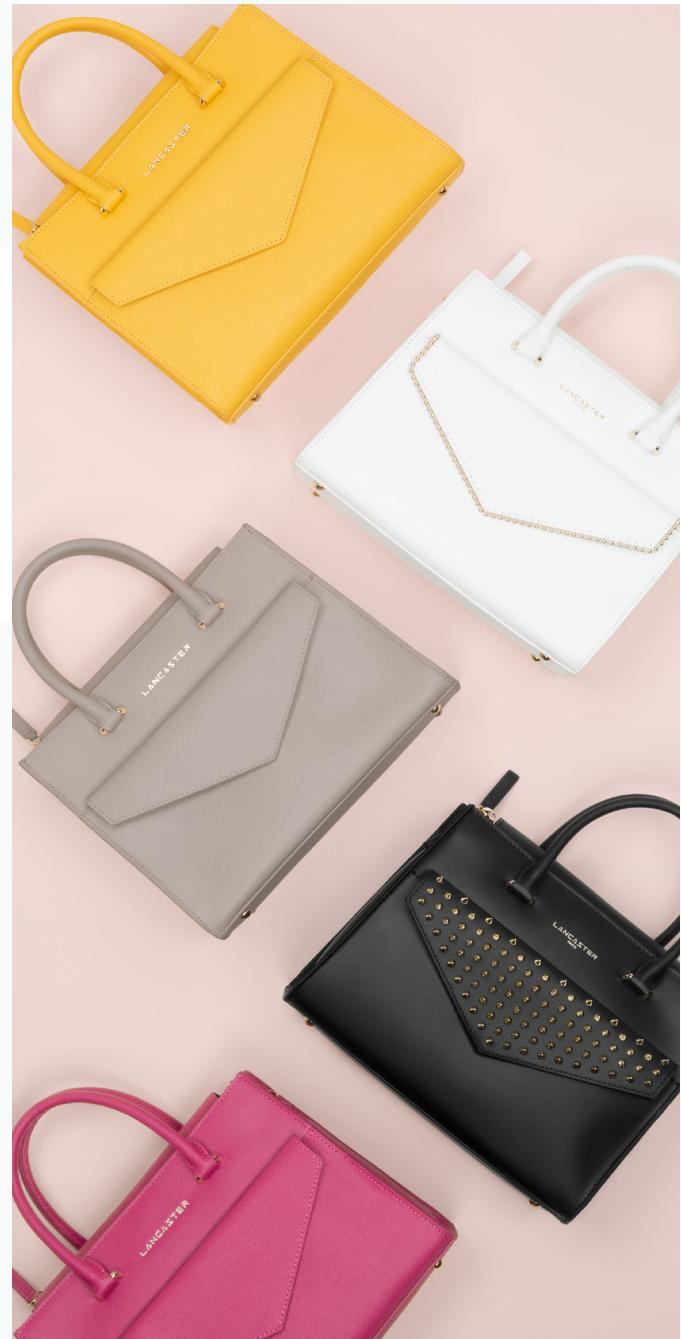
A key mobile business case centred around the use of Centric Software's interactive catalogue application, Collection Book, which is used by sales teams to present products anywhere, especially when on traveling. "The ability for salespeople to access collections in real-time, no matter where they are in the world, using Collection Book presents a real commercial advantage and helps to streamline and accelerate our sales process," explains Davide Ravizza, Lancaster's Commercial Director.

Driven by market demand for new styles, the time between product conception and sale is shrinking. Digital transformation has become essential for companies who wish to remain competitive. Working with Centric Software, Lancaster has been able to both expand its global footprint and reduce the time it takes to bring new products to market, as Ravizza explains, "To meet the needs of our international customer base, we have to be capable of delivering new products and new colorways at any moment, and Centric 8 helps us to respond to this challenge."

TRUE PLM PARTNERS

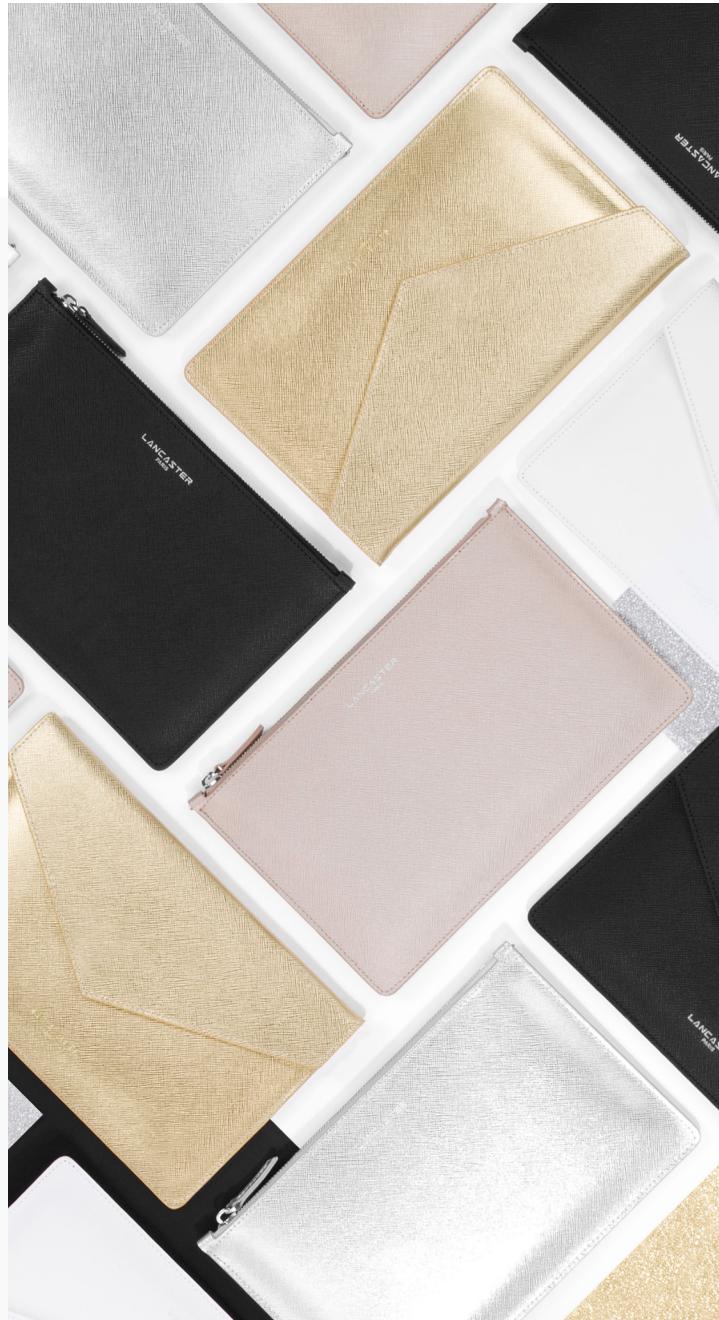
"Today, there is a genuine partnership between the Lancaster and Centric teams," says Tchen. "We continue to work closely together and this collaboration delivers real added value for both companies."

The next stage of this joint journey? To strengthen that partnership even further. "Our aim is to become more involved with the Centric Software user community and to engage and share best practices with other customers. I am extremely satisfied with our choice of Centric, and I would not hesitate to recommend them and their solutions to other businesses," concludes Tchen.



Results

- + Growth in overseas markets powered by PLM
- + Improved productivity
- + Consolidation of data and processes
- + Access to collections in real-time, using Centric's Collection Book mobile application



ABOUT LANCASTER

Lancaster is a French company whose talent and expertise have made it a well-known name in the leather goods market. Its keywords are innovation, constant change, fashion consciousness, and trendiness. In fact, over the years, the brand has successfully carved out a niche for itself as one of the leading names in the French leather goods and accessible luxury markets.

ABOUT CENTRIC SOFTWARE

From its headquarters in Silicon Valley and offices in trend capitals around the world, Centric Software builds technologies for the most prestigious names in fashion, retail, footwear, luxury, outdoor and consumer goods. Its flagship product lifecycle management (PLM) platform, Centric 8, delivers enterprise-class merchandise planning, product development, sourcing, business planning, quality and collection management functionality tailored for fast-moving consumer industries. Centric Small Business packages extended PLM including innovative technology and key industry learnings tailored for small businesses.

Centric Software has received multiple industry awards, including the Frost & Sullivan Global Product Differentiation Excellence Award in Retail, Fashion and Apparel PLM. Red Herring named Centric to its Top 100 Global list in 2013 and 2015.



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