**Manufacturing Data Standards**

STEP Tools is working on standards to make manufacturing more transparent. Millions of STEP models describing designs are shared every day. However, in the modern world designs must be converted into actions before they can be manufactured. These actions cannot be shared because there is no widely available standard. STEP Tools has been working to change this by extending STEP to include process. The new standard is known as STEP-NC and maybe it should become as successful as STEP. Outside of a small circle, no one knows how robots and machine tools are making the products we need every day. This means there is no transparency when something goes wrong, and no competition when something needs to be made more cheaply or accurately. Technical barriers such as the difficulty of simulating manufacturing processes in real time are disappearing. Now maybe the political importance of reducing costs and increasing competition will break the business barriers. Being the only one that can make something is the modern equivalent of being able to turn base metal into gold. No one would willingly surrender such a monopoly, but as the Defense Secretary recently pointed out the cost is too high for the country and the taxpayer.

https://defensescoop.com/2025/03/07/hegseth-memo-dod-software-acquisition-pathway-cso-ota/