

Strategic Perspectives

Enablon 2022 SPF keynote focuses on empowering meaningful evolution in time of crisis and accelerating ESG innovation

By [Brad Rosen, J.D.](#)

At the recent Sustainable Performance Forum (SPF) World 2022 held in Chicago, Illinois, Wolters Kluwer Enablon Vice President and Managing Director [Laurent Dechaux](#) set the stage for the two-day conference underscoring the crucial role the world's top companies and their leadership must play in building a better, more sustainable, and safer world. In his keynote address to an audience that consisted of leading ESG (environmental, social, governance), EHS (environment, health and safety), and risk and compliance professionals, Laurent pointed to the acute environmental, social, and operational pressures currently facing companies globally. He also called for the need to embrace change and empower meaningful evolution so as to take on the challenges confronting the business world in this time of unparalleled economic and environmental crisis.

Change is necessary to survive and to thrive. Laurent observed how critical our decisions can be, especially at times of heightened crisis. He noted that embracing change is never easy, observing that many don't even like the word. Many people fear change and will only make changes when it is absolutely necessary, he remarked.

Nevertheless, Laurent believes there is a need for change, and companies must shift in the way they do their business. He added that companies that do not change

will be unable to thrive, which might affect whether they will survive. Laurent observed that many tend to forget the positive aspects of change and the advantages it can bring in the end. "It is this change that can empower meaningful evolution," Laurent noted, adding, "collaboration and innovation are much easier when you get access to a wealth of diverse opinions, expertise and insights. This empowers us to grow together."

The three core beliefs that underlie empowering meaningful evolution.

Laurent's vision for Enablon incorporates standing for safety, working together towards sustainability and taking responsibility. This vision stands on the foundation of three core beliefs that encompass the following:

1. Safety and sustainability start with people.
2. Transparent data sharing is fundamental to empowering improvement and growth.
3. Human-centric technology is an impactful driver for critical change.

As Laurent pointed out to SPF attendees, these core beliefs "empower meaningful evolution. An evolution that many of you are already driving – to net zero, working in safer working places, and much more."

Transparency, accelerating innovation and longterm commitment. From Laurent's perspective, businesses are the agents of

change. He added that businesses are the change makers that have the opportunity, the duty and the passion to make the world a better place. He further identified the role of [Enablon](#), which is to help companies on that journey, and to be an honest, transparent and trusted partner on that path. Laurent went on to describe recent changes at Enablon itself that will allow the business to accelerate its innovation and better support its customer base. These include:

- The company recently hired 100 new employees working in the technology and product development areas.
- A third of Enablon's workforce is working in technology and product development.
- Enablon recently opened two new locations, one in Romania and the other in India, thereby expanding its footprint in eastern Europe and the Asian subcontinent.

Laurent also stressed the importance of Enablon being part of the [Wolters Kluwer](#) organization, a public company with revenues approaching €5 billion. Laurent stated that unlike private equity, or venture capital firms, "Wolters Kluwer has a long-term vision of building a better future. And Enablon is at the center of this strategy." Laurent continued, "we are investing heavily in making our business fit for the future to ensure continuous innovation and support for our customers."

Meaningful change must start with people.

As for how to initiate meaningful change within an organization, Laurent observed, “involving your business and making the world a better place cannot just be done in a board room. It has to start with people. We need to put people at the center of this evolution.” He added, “we believe that any person can be an agent of positive change toward this evolution, whether you are an EHS manager, head of sustainability, director of operations, or any other function.”

A holistic approach to managing risk.

In Laurent’s view, safety, sustainability, and assuming responsibility are all part of managing risk. As he puts it, “risk is everywhere in our businesses. So we believe that taking a holistic approach to risk improves every part of our collective businesses.” He then indicated that the next critical step is to translate this holistic vision of risk into solutions that can be operationalized. He pointed to Enablon’s significant efforts on this score, which have included integrating and operationalizing previously disconnected risk data.

Laurent also observed that this holistic approach to risk management enables improved ESG-oriented initiatives, as customers can now marry the processing of safety management data with financial

risk data. As a result, a user’s operational awareness will be better, because it enables the visualization of risk across multiple sites. Moreover, employee performance will improve because they can make safer decisions using advanced mobile technology on a particular site.

Partnership is the key to transformation and meaningful change.

According to Laurent, the path to transformation towards a better and safer planet isn’t walked alone. Rather, Enablon works closely with its customers and partners, on an ongoing basis, to continuously innovate and improve. Consequently, he noted that Enablon puts itself in the shoes of its customers to build integrated solutions. That involves listening to customers to understand their needs, and then help build solutions, and bring them back to the market and the community in the form of best practices.

When it comes to innovation, Laurent said it should have a purpose in order to bring gain for customers. He believes in working closely with users and providing continuous support. This allows a customer to maximize the benefits from Enablon’s software, engage in best practices and reach new sustainability heights.

A roadmap to increased customer safety productivity.

Laurent also identified

Enablon’s approach to executing and continuously improving its service to customers so as to enhance user safety and productivity. These include the following:

- Improving the core of Enablon software and making vital enhancements available.
- Accelerating innovation in crucial areas, such as ESG.
- Investing in new regions to meet the growing demands of ESG. Note, locations have recently opened in China, and further expansion in countries in that region is contemplated.

Laurent further observed that Enablon intends to continue accelerating innovation to increase the quality of its support, and to improve its market ties for the benefit of its customers. Noting this goes so much further than technological and resource advances, Laurent said, “we are building the capability to accelerate our revolution towards a better future.” Laurent concluded, “Wolters Kluwer, Enablon, our partners, our customers, altogether will define and design the intersection of risk, environment and technology for the next generation. The connection we empower is meaningful evolution together.”

A video replay of the entire SPF Forum 2022, including Laurent Dechaux’s keynote address, can be accessed [here](#).