

6 ways no-code QMS software advances your Quality Management



Executive summary

While technological change is accelerating, the capacity to absorb this change becomes a bottleneck for many manufacturers. No-code Quality Management Software helps to eliminate this bottleneck.

Key takeaways

- ⊛ No-code implementation allows business users to be independent from IT staff
- ⊛ No-code drives adoption because you can adapt the system to the business process, and not the other way around
- ⊛ Responding to a changing world becomes easier and cheaper through no-code
- ⊛ AlisQI has made no-code an integral part of its' business model

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Introduction

The pace of technological change is not slowing down – far from it – and we are on the threshold of yet more innovation, more gains in productivity, and more automation in how we run and monitor industrial production. Yet there is what we might call a problem of supply: the chronic lack of software developers to make all that exciting change happen.

This is why no-code and low-code platforms have gained such incredible traction over the past year. Low-code allows developers to create new applications four or five times faster than traditional DevOp builds; no-code opens up a world of possibility for business users or so-called “citizen developers” to extend or adapt the functionality of software tools without writing a line of code or having an IT background.

Quality managers are not expected to create new applications, but they are responsible for implementing, maintaining, and adapting the Quality Management Software (QMS) that hosts their Quality Control, Quality Assurance and QESH operations.

No-code can be transformative here because it allows quality teams to do this independently of the QMS vendor, a consultant or their own (overstretched) IT department, making quality operations much more agile and cost-effective.

No-code is a technological choice that has a huge and significant interface with the core requirements of QMS: inclusivity or omnipresence, and the ability to adapt to changing regulation and market demands.

This interface – as captured by the AlisQI platform – is the subject of our whitepaper. In the chapters that follow we analyze how no-code

advances Quality Management by putting the people closest to the problem – you – in charge of the system.

We end by drawing attention to the AlisQI licensing model and pilot; they too are the logical conclusion of the inclusivity we promote with our no-code vision.

01

How we arrived at no-code Quality Management

In previous whitepapers, we explored the future of Quality Management in the era of Industry 4.0, and how manufacturers can prepare for that future.

At AlisQI, as we prepared to build our QMS, we understood the need for a modern and holistic technology platform to help businesses achieve quality maturity – but of course we had to think deeply and in detail about what such a platform should look like.

We had to reflect on our own quality intelligence and maturity as software developers. Before writing a line of code, we defined the following requirements. These were our lines in the sand, our quality non-negotiables.

The Quality Management Software had to:

- Bring together all aspects of Quality Management: QC, QA, QESH, and Document Management
- And by doing that transform Quality Management for medium to large manufacturers
- Be smart and engaging to use at all at levels of the business for both daily and incidental users
- Be simple to set up, maintain, extend, adapt, and customize
- Allow for advanced business logic
- Have a licensing system that encouraged take-up of the system
- Produce results and ROI quickly and visibly
- Allow for a pilot that was not a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) but rather a true reflection of the Quality Intelligence platform as a whole

- Be deliverable online to enhance sustainability and keep costs in check

Some of the items on our to-do list surprised us. The benefits of making all the aspects of Quality Management interoperable on the same platform, with the same interface, are so obvious and overwhelming, we would have assumed every QMS tool on the market to offer this. Not the case – and a gap in the market for AlisQI.

User-friendliness seemed another non-brainer, but many QMS platforms bear the traces of their “techie” past in an era where businesses such as Apple and Uber are setting new standards for intuitive usability. This is not a question of design or marketing, but a crucial aspect of quality accessibility, as we shall see.

Naturally, we wanted manufacturers to use our platform, but we quickly realized that the first hurdle was often the highest: implementation. This was an obstacle even for manufacturers that significantly lagged their industry peers in following best practice in how they executed Quality Management.

In other words, we had to make it as easy as possible for businesses to adopt AlisQI. Even for larger manufacturers with their own teams of developers this meant that implementation – and later maintenance and customization – had to be feasible without IT getting involved.

Why? Because the rapid pace of technological change forces IT to constantly innovate as well as perform its day-to-day task of maintaining the existing systems and software infrastructure. Simply put, they don't have the time.

This is why we made it easy and intuitive for business users – the quality experts in your company – to implement AlisQI.

We created a no-code platform.

“No-code” and “low-code” are trends that are here to stay because they solve so many problems. Without no-code / low-code many projects would take far too long and be too costly to carry out – or simply never happen at all.

We did not set out to create a no-code tool, much less follow a trend or respond to a buzzword. We simply developed the platform that we knew the market needed, with the result that AlisQI is a no-code platform just as WordPress and shopify.com are no-code platforms that were common long before no-code / low-code had gone mainstream.

In this whitepaper we analyze the advantages of no-code and explain why no-code is more than a technological choice but an integral part of our vision for AlisQI – and Quality Management.

02

No-code implementation

A remark made by a Quality Manager at a chemicals conglomerate describes the essence of all our implementation projects. She says: "The department managers each set up their own processes in AlisQI. This is really beneficial since they know their processes best. The teams were able to adopt AlisQI very quickly *because they recognized their processes.*"

This points to a core advantage of no-code implementations: you enjoy the flexibility to tailor the platform to your needs. This means you end up with exactly what you wanted out of your project because the experts – you and your team – were in charge. This is also true for implementations with more input from AlisQI or one of our partners. Because the platform is no-code, there are no "black-box moments" where you are disenfranchised because you may lack programming experience.

Next to taking matters into your own hands, no-code implementations have many other benefits of course. Such projects are painless and of short duration, no matter who executes them: AlisQI, a partner, or your own team. To give you a rough idea, a typical implementation of one of our modules, QC and Statistical Process Control, absorbs one or two man-days a week over a period of six to eight weeks. Master Data management takes a day to set up and the individual analysis sets for batch-testing between two to four hours. This means that AlisQI is deployable and useful from day one.

The choice to self-implement or to contract AlisQI or one of our partners to assist with the process is a highly individual one. But whoever steers the project, everyone will be able to understand what is happening and feel part of what is happening. There is a huge and crucial relation between no-code technology and platform buy-in.

There is also a cost benefit – but we regard this as perhaps the least significant advantage. In the long run, engagement and flexibility are more important. Complex and time-consuming implementations are

demotivating and negatively impact adoption and buy-in when the aim should be accessibility and omnipresence. Agile implementations allow for flexibility and customizations very early on and because of no-code the end-users of AlisQI can give actionable input from the outset.

Where the technological benefits of no-code become most apparent is afterwards, when AlisQI is your QMS. As the system becomes more embedded in your workflows and data processes, you will want to leverage its functionalities to execute advanced business logic. Even without such ambitions, you will want to respond to events and changing regulation with the agility no-code gives you.

This is the aspect of no-code we investigate next.

03

Inclusivity

As we remarked earlier, one of our founding principles was that AlisQI be as accessible as possible.

How we think of user-friendliness is different from the user-friendliness of a mass consumer product such as the iPhone. Friendliness in Apple's vision means a gorgeous home screen, intuitive navigation, an approachable and resolutely "ungeeky" OS. But this user-friendliness is neither inclusive nor empowering – quite the opposite: the smoothness of the experience and its aesthetic appeal are part of a strategy to exclude the user and make him or her wholly dependent on Apple.

Of course, AlisQI is also fast and intuitive, with a well-designed, uncluttered dashboard, but that is where the comparison ends. The philosophy that inspires our software is the opposite of Apple's. We want you to own the system. To customize it, manage it and adapt it to your changing needs – and this is what the no-code approach allows you to do.

All this does not mean that we sell you the software and then leave you to cope on your own; we or one of our partners offer support, of course we do, as much as you need. And we take care of the IT-side of things: installation, backups, updates, and security – the technological housekeeping if you like. But the fact remains that after implementation you will be ready to manage and adapt your QMS on your own – really 99% of the time in our experience – and without input from IT. All you need is an internet browser, a network connection and computer skills that allow you to work with Google and Excel.

This is the experience of the manufacturers that are deploying AlisQI. In the words of a QA manager at a manufacturer of semiconductors: "The software is easy to use and easy to adapt to the changing requirements of the organization, without the intervention of the

supplier. The software is easy and quick to understand for employees. No lengthy training is required. It is very intuitive.”

Or from the production manager at producer of plastics: “Simplicity in setting up databases to collect data and very easy to create meaningful reports using the data. Very flexible in setting up databases for different processes in our company (monitoring production, QC and QA).”

Or, briefly, from an analyst at a food production plant: “The best thing about this system is that you can easily arrange everything yourself.”

The inclusiveness of our no-code platform creates a virtuous cycle where quality leaders refine and customize the system in response to the experiences and feedback from everyone in the business, leading to even greater improvements in Quality Management.

Next, we will look at some of the Quality Management improvements that no-code AlisQI puts within reach of the business user.

04

No-code makes you
agile

Changing regulations and changing buyer demands mean that over time you will need to adapt your QMS. The AlisQI no-code platform allows manufacturers to create their own data models, adapt their analytics and embed their business logic in the system – adaptations that lead to better predictions of quality performance.

Users can create their own [dashboards](#), and personalize them for the laboratory, the factory floor or the boardroom. Each role, each production line, even each meeting can have its own dashboard. Production workers often have a limited proficiency in English or the native language of the manufacturer; they need highly visual and intuitive dashboards to input and interpret data. At the other end of the spectrum, a manufacturer of resins for the automotive industry monitors as many as 500 different resins on a dashboard created in AlisQI. The advantage of our no-code platform is that you do not need us or IT to develop or adapt these dashboards.

One of the most powerful tools in AlisQI is its Expression Engine which enables manufacturers to implement rich logic in their data analysis. Business users can create these advanced calculations themselves by leveraging no-code. We don't pretend that no-code is always as simple as drag and drop (although most of the time it is) but the learning curve is never steep. Our course video on how to create and use advanced calculations and rich logic in the AlisQI Expression Engine is less than half an hour long: a small investment of time for what is a huge leap forward in your quality insight.

The business model of many software vendors is to offer a black-box solution followed by a series of costly consultancy projects to open that box. This clashes with the AlisQI vision that wherever possible the experts should be in charge. We are very good at what we do, but when it comes to your organization and your Quality Management, the expert can only be you. This is no more than common sense, yet many software projects seem to take the expertise away from where it belongs – with the end user. No-code

empowers the true experts to take control of the platform and make the best decisions for that platform.

A black-box solution that hides itself from the end-user will be difficult to implement and manage – and can never be inclusive. We were sure from the outset that we did not want to build such a system. Our focus on no-code inclusivity would also need to be reflected in how we brought our solution to market: our licensing model.

05

Our no-code business model

We can be brief about this. A system cannot claim to be inclusive or empowering if it costs more to give your co-workers access to it. Omnipresence must mean frictionless omnipresence, and there is no greater friction than additional cost! The licensing model AlisQI operates is site-based, not user-based. This is not general industry practice; most vendors have fees tiered according to the number of users.

This makes no sense to us at all. Having built a platform to enhance inclusiveness, the last thing we want to do is impose a licensing structure that penalizes it. With our licensing model, there are no barriers to engagement with the QMS.

One of the hallmarks of Quality 4.0 is the hyperconnectivity of people, systems, and machines, and this is what the AlisQI no-code platform anticipates, both in its functionalities and its business model. The AlisQI API enables you to connect any system, instrument, or sensor to our platform.

We believe in our vision and want to share it with you because no blog or whitepaper comes close to matching the experience of actually using our software. AlisQI offers a pilot of its no-code Quality Intelligence platform free of cost. What does such a pilot involve, and can it work for your organization? Let's find out.

No strings attached pilot

The AlisQI pilot is a mini-implementation in which we roll out 10-20% of the process to enable organizations to evaluate the no-code platform in practice – and with their own data, processes, and people. The pilot is completely representative of the application, the complexity of the implementation and the performance of the cloud platform. AlisQI regards the pilot as much more than a freebie or a

sample but treats it as a fully-fledged project. A project on a smaller scale – but that is the only difference.

The pilot runs for one month. It is up to the organization how it wants to trial the system: as a test environment, a shadow process or as part of the actual Quality Management. Several of our clients used AlisQI to support their production process in the pilot phase, meaning that the platform was effectively live. Because of no-code, a lot can be achieved in a very short time, giving businesses a realistic view of the transformation within their grasp.

An additional advantage of a pilot is that should you decide to go ahead and deploy AlisQI at full scale, the implementation process would be that much faster, and you would be online before you know it.

Conclusion

Of course, it is a great commercial advantage that our no-code software can be implemented quickly and at modest expense. However, this was not our starting point or even our main reason for developing a no-code system that is lean and agile. The platform had to deliver technically and strategically by being accessible to all, no matter what the cost.

It was equally important to adopt a licensing model that would fit that strategy and reinforce it. A site-based licensing model was the natural and only response to our philosophy of inclusiveness.

However, all this is of no account if our no-code platform does not transform your Quality Management. This is why we urge you, the experts, to test AlisQI – and test us to the limit. To us, every no-code implementation is a new adventure, and we look forward to going on that journey with you and unlocking your factory's full potential.

Need more resources to help your team achieve Quality Intelligence? Visit the [AlisQI website](#) for whitepapers, case studies, videos, free courses, and blogs on industry-related topics.





Discuss your case?

Do you want to discuss your case with one of our experts? Please contact us and we will schedule a call to discuss our no-code QMS for your business.

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