Life Cycle Information and Communication – Practical examples from hygiene products industry

NorLCA first symposium

Lund, 2006-10-09

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SCA Personal Care

The SCA Group

- International paper company
  - Absorbent hygiene products
  - Packaging solutions
  - Publication papers
- Net sales 2005: 11 bln €
- No of employees: 51 000
- Sales in some 90 countries, production in 40 countries

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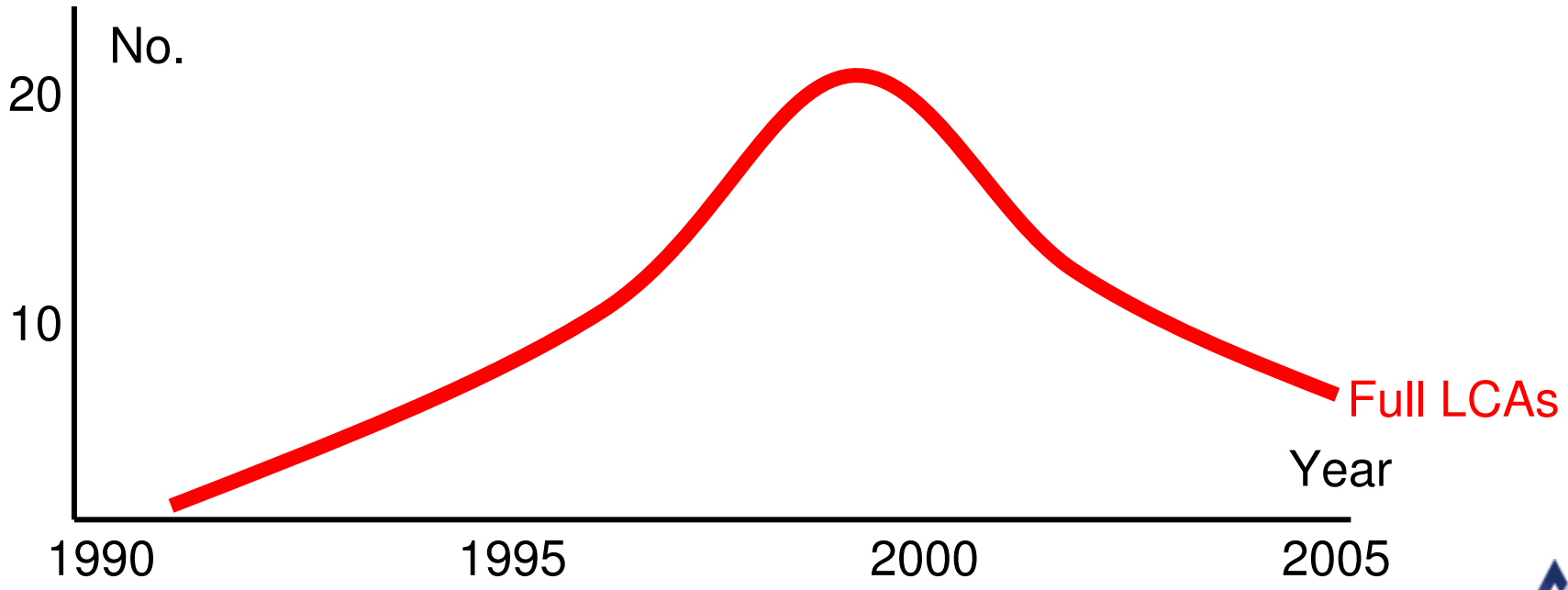
History of LCA at SCA PC



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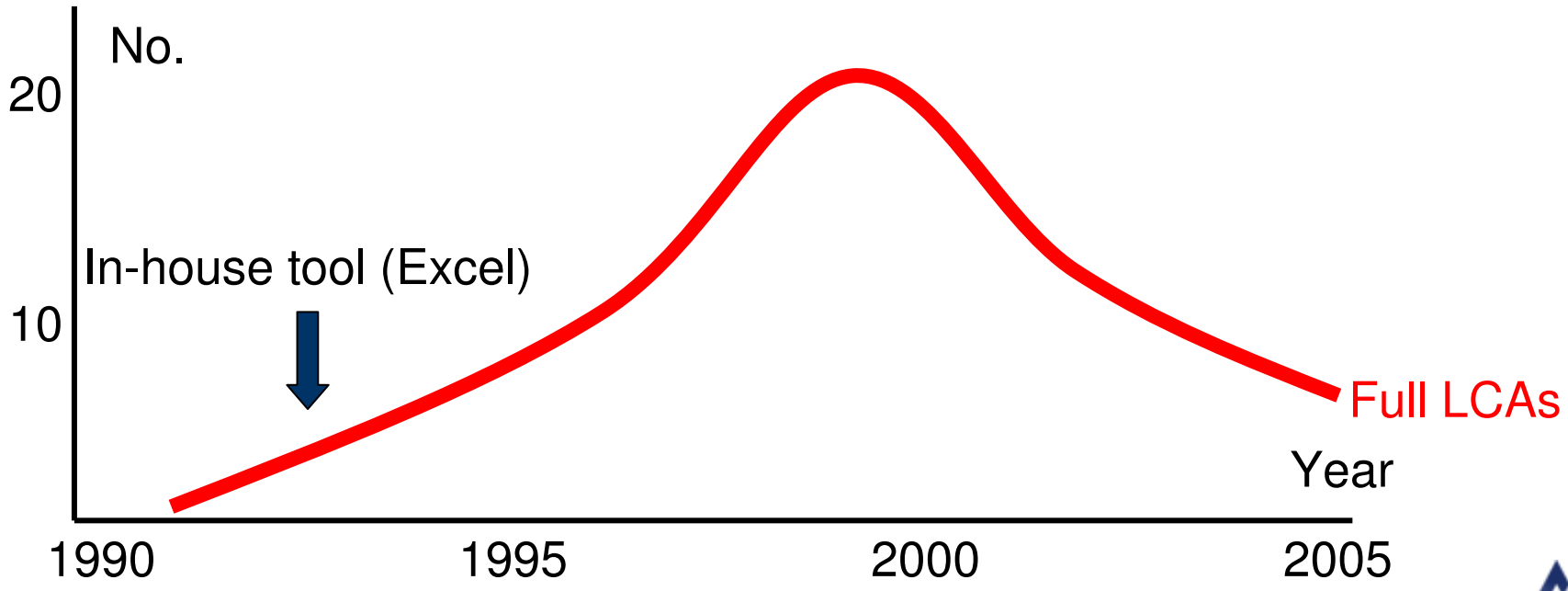

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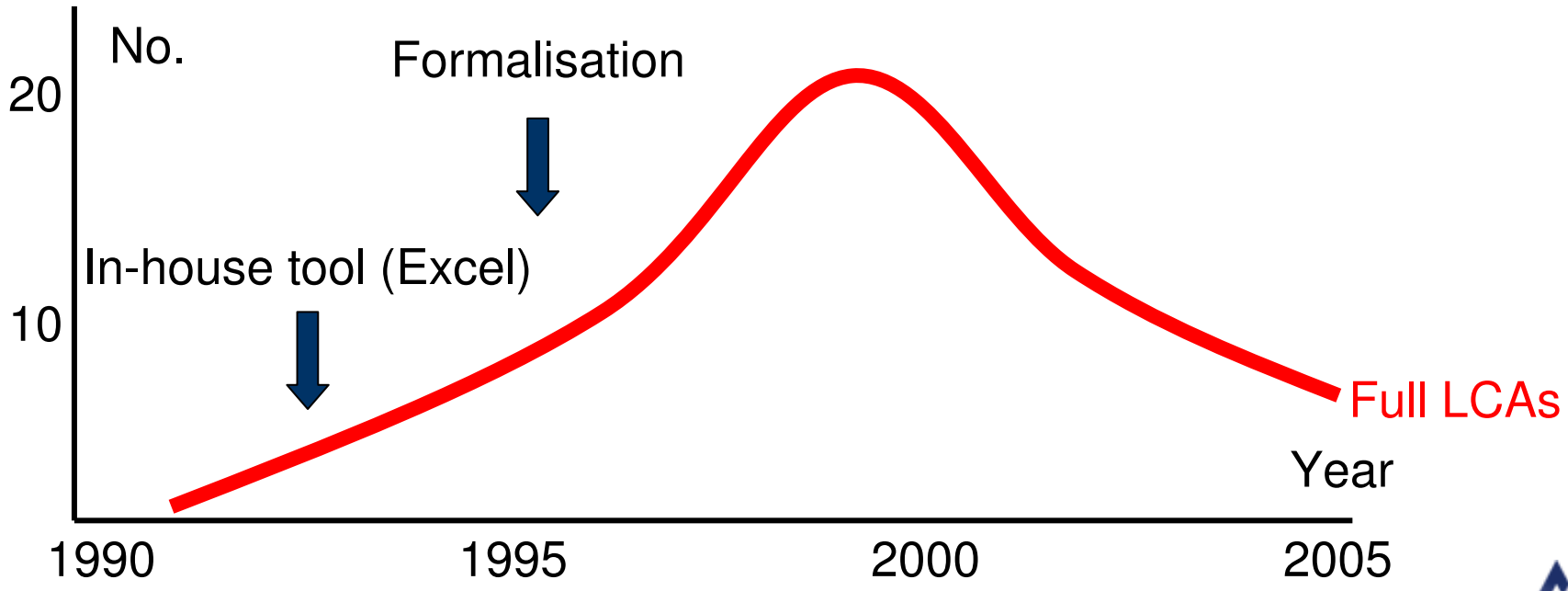

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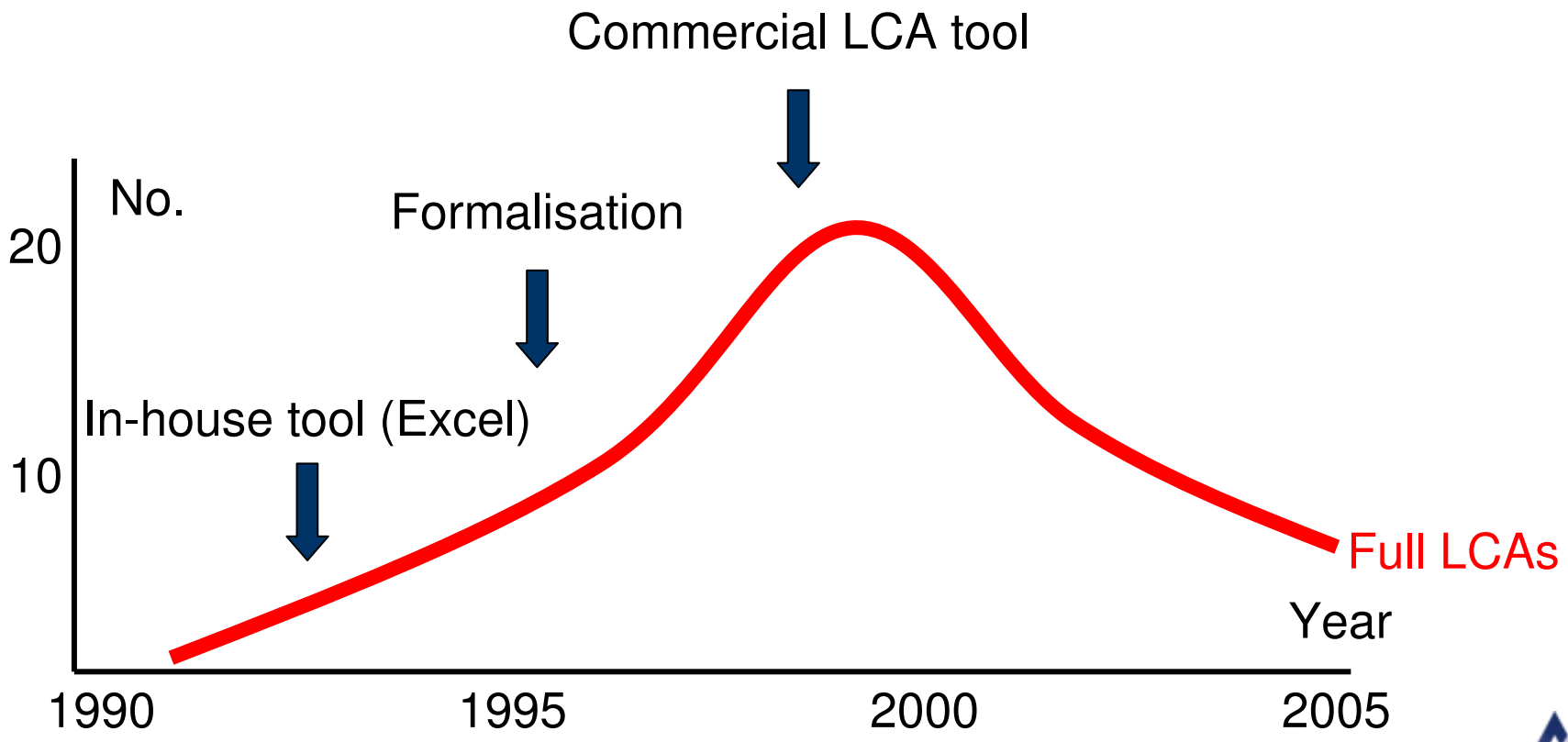

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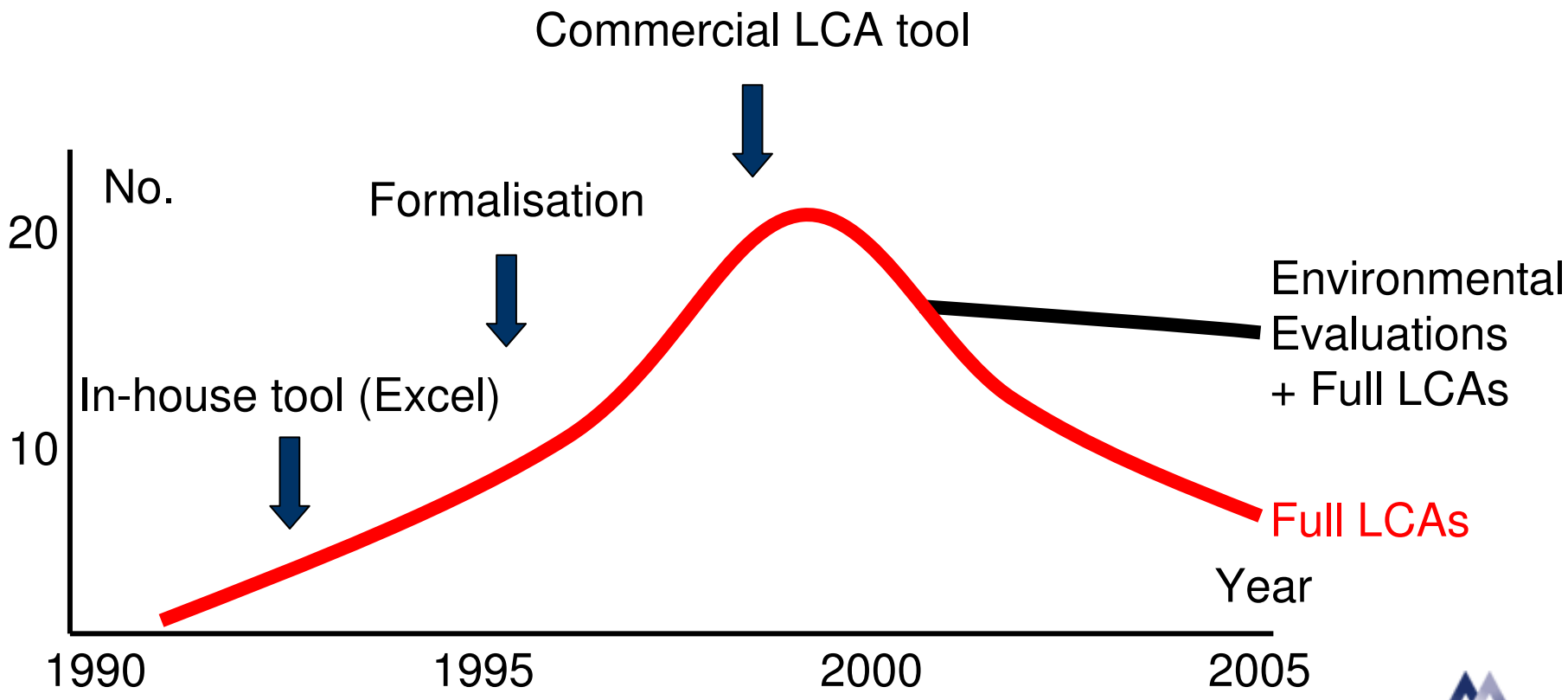


SCA PC use of LCA

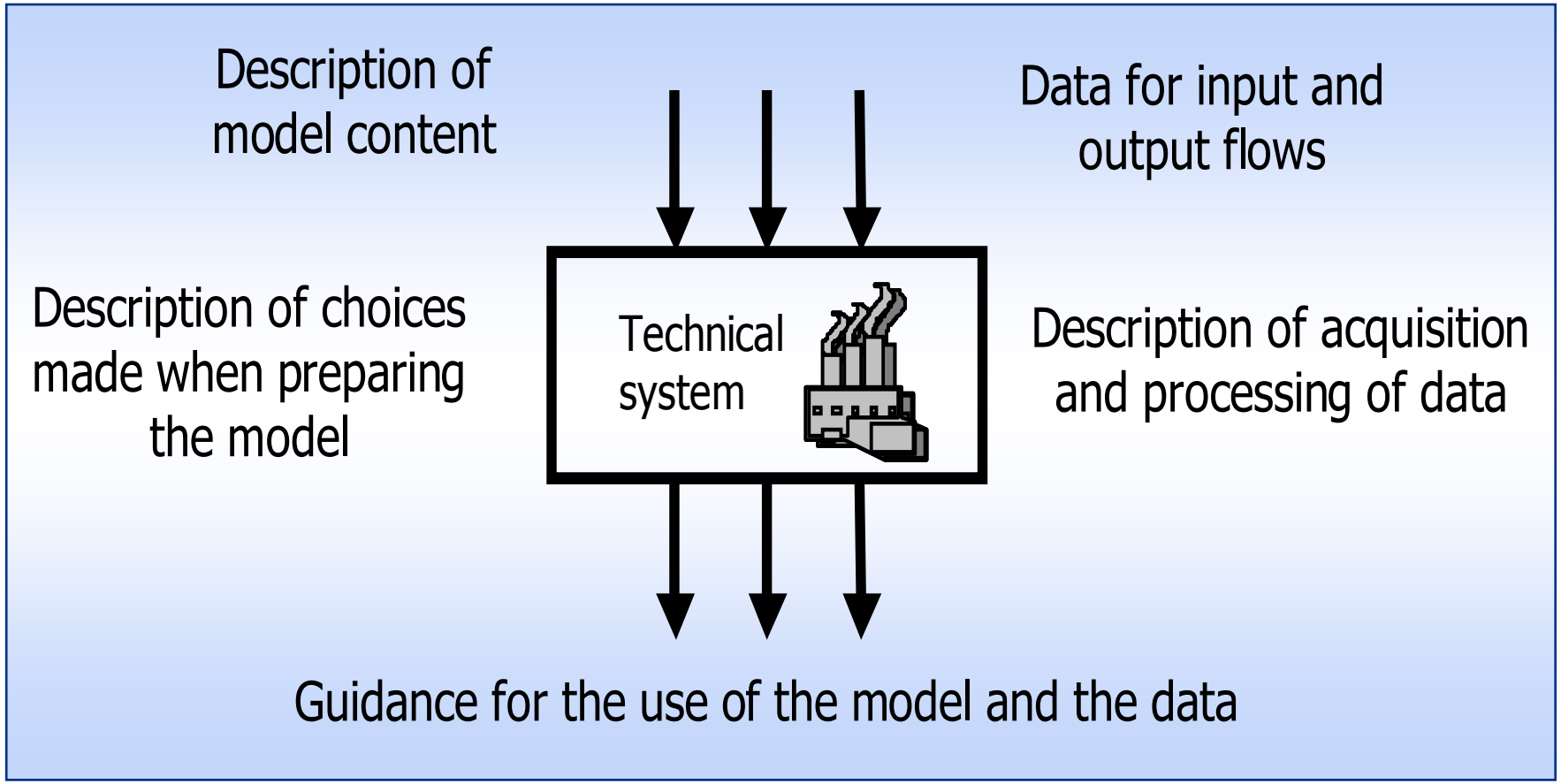
- **In-house use for product development**
  - Knowledge build up
- **In industry associations (EDANA)**
  - Early LCA project 1995
  - Benchmarking
  - Lobbying
    - EDANA Sustainability report
- **For stakeholder communication**
  - UK LCA on disposable vs. reusable diapers
  - Discussions around eco-labelling
- **For communication of LCA results – Environmental Product Declaration currently under investigation**

Continuous work with data quality

- **Importance of data quality became apparent**
- **Development of database structure**
  - Excel – limitations due to data format
  - SPINE – switch of data base structure/software 1999 gave support for advances in data quality work
    - developed by CPM*
    - gave input to ISO/TS 14048
- **Latest development:**
  - test with ISO/TS 14048 demo tools, e.g. the tool converting Ecoinvent Ecospold data to ISO/TS 14048 and SPINE format.
- **Regarding data quality the real challenge has been to describe technical systems**

**CPM - Centre for Environmental Assessment of Product and Material Systems, Swedish joint academia and industrial research forum*

Describing technical systems



Data quality as defined within CPM

Reliability
- precision
- credibility
  - transparency
  - competence

Accessibility
- data communication
- openness (after data acquisition)
- semantic

Relevance
- general
- specific (suited for the application)

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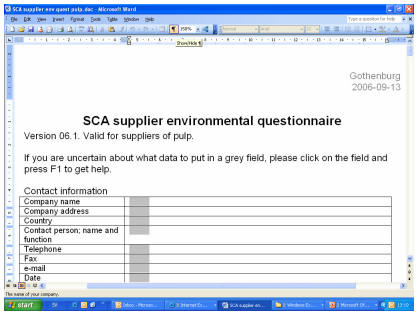
Supply chain LC data sources

Sub-supplier production data (generic)

Supply chain LC data sources

Sub-supplier production data (generic)

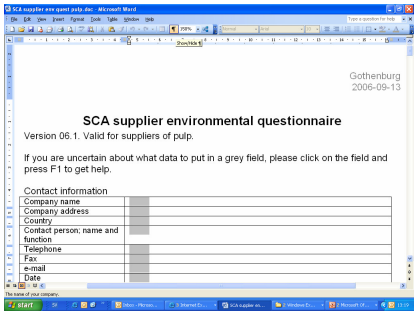
Supplier production data



Supply chain LC data sources

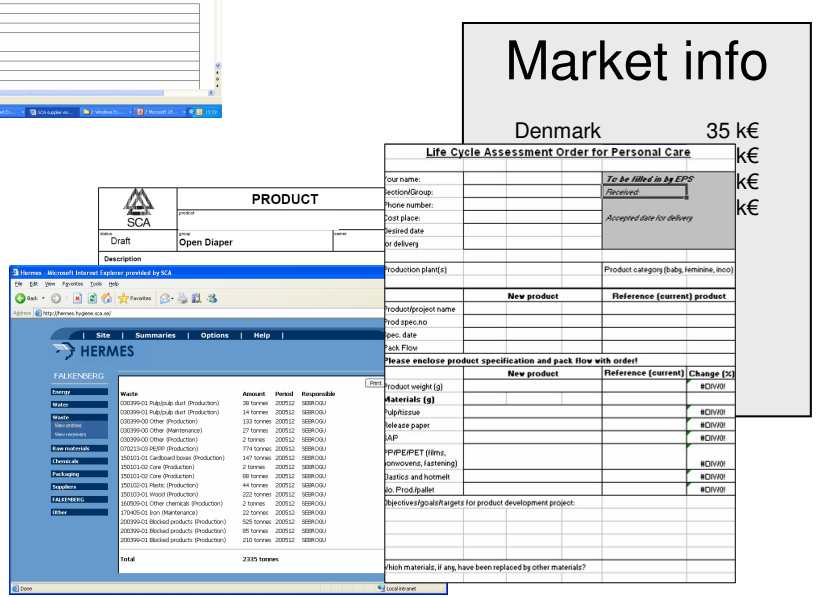
Sub-supplier production data (generic)

Supplier production data



SCA production and product data

Models



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Conclusions

- **Some important factors for obtaining low cost, high quality LCAs in the hygiene products industry**
  - Organisational support for LCA
    - LCA integrated in the formalised product development procedure
    - In-house competence and database
  - Good knowledge of the supply chain
    - For us, successful collaboration in trade organisations
    - Focus on relevant parts
      - *Where to put resources in order to cover major part of environmental impacts*
    - From extensive LCA experience
  - Data with high data quality
    - Adequate description of the technical system
    - Supportive data format/data base structure