Abstract
LEAN product development is in the process and means area pragmatic. Low tech tools, such as paper, pen and magnets, with very direct interaction are used. For communication the use of single A3-size documents is promoted, because this is a manageable amount of information.
Characteristics of LEAN

A holistic, systems approach to product development including people, processes, and technology.

Multi-disciplinary from the early start, with a drive to be fact based.

Customer understanding as the starting point.

Continuous improvement and learning as cultural value.

Small distance between engineers and real systems, including manufacturing, sales and service and the system of interest.
Example of A3 Architecture Overview

A3 architecture overview of the Metal Printer
(all numbers have been removed for competitive sensitivity)

back-end factory: systems and process model

clean master
profil
print
metal printer
metal printing cell: systems and performance model

metal printing time-line
metal printing cell

metal printer back side
metal printer front side
metal printer subsystems, functions, and cycle time model

Customer key-drivers and Key Performance Parameters

Document meta-information

LEAN and A3 Approach to Supporting Processes

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LEANOverviewA3
multiple related views

quantifications

one topic per A3
capture "hot" topics
digestable (size limitation)

close to stakeholder experience

source: PhD thesis Daniel Borches http://doc.utwente.nl/75284/