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Systems Integration: He Who Hesitates Is Lost

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Abstract

Most discussions on integration focus on the activities during the building of the product. Early actions are limited to defining and controlling the interface requirements. With the reality of the increased costs of fixing problems late in the program and the general recognition that there are usually problems at the interfaces, this seems to be a less than optimum approach. This briefing looks at several ways to improve the overall integration process and find those problems much earlier. Examples are given of both need for earlier actions and their benefit. In this presentation, emphasis will be given to System of System issues and actions.

Biography

James Armstrong received a M.S. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He is currently an Industry Professor in the School of Systems and Enterprises at Stevens Institute of Technology. Earlier, Mr. Armstrong served as Technical Fellow and lead systems engineer for the Systems and Software Consortium (SSCI) where he consulted on and taught systems engineering and process improvement for consortium member companies and government agencies. Before joining SSCI, Mr. Armstrong served as Vice President, Operations of Systems Management and Development Corporation providing systems engineering and program management training and support for Lockheed Martin, Rockwell Collins, Northrop Grumman, U.S. Air Force, and other organizations. Earlier, Mr. Armstrong was an acquisition officer in the U.S. Air Force for over 21 years on various space, air traffic control, strategic and tactical communications, shipborne radar, and strategic missile test support programs. His responsibilities included program manager, headquarters lead, chief engineer, test manager, systems safety and configuration management. He has also contributed to many of the systems engineering standards and models.