

Engineering Process

Automotive SPICE™

Autor: Alec Dorling

In today's environment, where products such as automatic braking systems, satellite systems and medical devices are increasing their reputation for performance, quality and value for money, succeeding in the market place is ever more dependent on the ability to employ new technology in all aspects of the business. At the same time there is market demand to deliver with less cost and reduced timescales.

Today, more than 85% of the functionality in the modern motor vehicle is controlled by software. As project schedules get even shorter, the pressure on software development and target hardware costs get ever greater, and the potential recall and safety issues due to electronic systems malfunction becomes ever more calculable.

Both the motor vehicle manufacturer and the supplier need to take action to address these issues. Suppliers have not been slow to take action. Many forward looking companies are already utilising process assessment techniques as a basis for identifying areas for improvement both to meet their business needs and the demands of their customers.

The motor vehicle manufacturers have also started to take proactive action to address the situation in a number of ways; by focusing on software capability of the supplier in the supplier evaluation process; making provision for contractual demands with respect to software quality; and in performing supplier software capability assessments both before and during contract performance.

Whilst the immediate short-term benefits are clear for the motor vehicle manufacturer, without commonality of approach, suppliers face multiple assessments from multiple manufacturers using different models and consuming resources that put additional pressure on delivery times.

In a major initiative, The Procurement Forum and The SPICE User Group have been working together with the major motor vehicle manufacturers, their assessors and representative bodies to address the issue through AutomotiveSPICE. A process assessment model, tailored from ISO/IEC 15504 - the international standard for process assessment, has been developed for application within the automotive domain. Suppliers are now being asked contractually to have an assessment performed and to meet target capability levels.



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Automotive SPICE™ will be formally launched at a special event to be held on the 25 April 2006 at the Munich IHK (Chamber of Commerce), Germany. The motor vehicle manufacturers will be present at the event to convey their official policy and approach towards supplier capability assessments.

The AutomotiveSPICE initiative includes the following car manufacturers :- AUDI AG, BMW Group, DaimlerChrysler AG, Fiat Auto S.p.A., Ford Werke GmbH, Jaguar, Land Rover, Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG, Volkswagen AG and Volvo Car Corporation.

Further information about Automotive SPICE™ may be found at <http://www.automotivespice.com>

The SPICE User Group - <http://www.spiceusergroup.org/>

The Procurement Forum - <http://www.procurementforum.org/>

ISOSPICE - <http://www.isospice.com/>

Alec Dorling, The SPICE User Group
info@spiceusergroup.org
Phone: +46 70 424 1629

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