



Updated CMMI Focuses on Broader Usage in Industry and Government



This issue of CROSSTALK is the second dedicated to the Capability Maturity Model® IntegrationSM (CMMISM) project. Readers new to CMMI will find it useful to first review the CMMI articles found in the July 2000 CROSSTALK. Back issues can be found online at the Software Technology Support Center (STSC) Web site <www.stsc.hill.af.mil>. After more than an additional year of comments and piloting, CMMI Version 1.1 was released in January 2002. The focus has now turned to “implementation” of CMMI into broader usage in industry and the government. Our Air Force program office (Computer Resources Support Improvement Program) remains dedicated to the successful introduction of CMMI into government offices throughout the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

I hope that most people now recognize that CMMI is a cooperative endeavor between government, industry, and the Software Engineering Institute. The goal of the CMMI project starting in early 1998 has been to merge several separate discipline process improvement models into a single framework that can be used as a basis for a common approach to process improvement for both systems and software engineering. It is also expected that CMMI will provide for new disciplines to be added with relative ease. It is anticipated that CMMI Version 1.1 will prove to be as stable and long-lived as the source model for software that preceded it.

The first CMMI Technology Conference and User Group was held at the Denver Technology Center, Nov. 13-15, 2001. More than 300 individuals met to share lessons learned in the early implementations of CMMI. Full details of the presentations from this conference can be downloaded from the National Defense Industrial Association Conferences Web site: <www.dtic.mil/ndia/2001cmmi/2001cmmi.html>.

In this issue of CROSSTALK, CMMI Project Manager Mike Phillips describes in *CMMI Version 1.1: What Has Changed?* the key changes that have occurred with the release of CMMI Version 1.1. One of the biggest concerns voiced about the new CMMI model has been the length of time required for appraisals using this larger, combined model. Phillips also describes some of the discoveries that have been made from eight pilot appraisals accomplished in the Phase II Pilot Program, including improved efficiency in the execution of the appraisal method. In *CMMI Appraisal Methodologies: Choosing What Is Right for You*, Ilene Minnich discusses some alternatives to using the full class A Standard CMMI Appraisal Method for Process Improvement (SCAMPI). She also stresses that “the keys to success are education, preparation, and pre-work.”

As mentioned above, one of the goals was to make the CMMI framework easily expandable for new discipline investigations. Donald R. Michels and Bonnie Bollinger from Warner Robins Air Logistics Center review the success that they have achieved by piloting new acquisition process areas in *Transitioning From SA-CMM to CMMI in the Special Operations Forces Systems Program Office*.

Consultant Winifred Menezes discusses in *To CMMI or Not to CMMI: Issues to Think About* some ideas for transitioning to CMMI from several different perspectives. In *How Function Points Support the Capability Maturity Model Integration*, Barbara Emmons and Carol Dekkers discuss the tie between CMMI process areas and Function Point Analysis. They indicate that this tie is not well known, but make a compelling case that a direct connection does exist.

Also included is an article by Sarah Sheard, *How Do I Make My Organization Comply With Yet Another New Model?* Sheard believes that complying with a new capability model is much easier than starting fresh if the organization already complies with another model. Lastly an article by Edgar Dalrymple, *U.S. Army Develops High Quality, Extremely Low Cost Digital Message Parser*, details how the Software Engineering Directorate, by virtue of their development process, successfully provided a key technology to support one of the Army's most significant organizational goals: interoperability via digitization.

Space limitations in this issue forced an article by Suzanne Garcia of the Software Engineering Institute, *Are You Prepared for CMMI?*, to be published in next month's issue. Garcia talks about how applying technology adoption concepts can smooth the CMMI adoption process considerably.

I hope that these articles, as well as additional ones about CMMI usage over the coming year, will provide incentive for your organization to get started or continue in your voyage to migrate to CMMI. For more detailed information on the CMMI project visit the SEI Web site at <www.sei.cmu.edu/cmmi>. For assistance in understanding and getting started with CMMI, also visit the STSC Web site at <www.stsc.hill.af.mil>.

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