

Product development capability assessment in aerospace projects

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Business needs quality with minimum cost but modern product development and manufacturing approach results more complex webs of enterprises. This leads us to risk based management. Based on AS/EN 9100 D Quality Management Systems - Requirements for Aviation, Space and Defence Organizations, the main contractor shall meet the requirement 8.4 control of externally provided processes, products and services. And of course, all effort is for AS/EN 9100 D 9.1.2 customer satisfaction.

Neither a full control over a supplier nor a full autonomy is a key for successful supplier chain management. Product severity and supplier confidence of a contractor is determinant factor in level of involvement to a supplier. And this level of involvement is the main driver of a cost efficient procurement. Product severity may be much straight forward, in most of the cases, but confidence must be assessed and this is directly related with the product development capability.

Assessment is not a new concept for industry. Several different applications may be encountered. One of the most common one in aerospace is AS9101 Quality Management Systems Audit Requirements for Aviation, Space and Defense Organization and but assessment focuses on authentication of an enterprise with AS9100 family Quality Management System certifications instead of directly focusing on the capability.

This study focuses on assessment of product development capability of subcontractors of an aerospace product integrator company.