



Six Sigma methodology focuses team talent on critical parts, processes and design to maximize total customer satisfaction.

--Ray Waddoups

Designing For Six Sigma

It's easy to visualize the need to assemble our products with the least possible defects. What is less obvious is the role that the design of the product and manufacturing process plays in product quality. The effort to impact this part of our business is called "designing for manufacturability" and it is a major thrust in design engineering at GEG.

Ray Waddoups, VP and Director of GEG Research and Development, is leading the GEG six sigma design effort. "By identifying the opportunities for error and determining the weak points before building the hardware, we can significantly impact the quality of the final product," he states.

How is GEG implementing this design effort? GEG engineers are being trained in the techniques of Designing for Manufacturability. The goal of the 16 hour course is to alter the way engineers design both products and manufacturing processes. The course shows

participants how their design decisions impact defect and waste-free manufacturing. 1800 employees have participated in the training program, which represents 90% of the GEG engineers and managers targeted to attend.

Seven programs at GEG have been identified as Six Sigma design pilots. These programs represent a variety of design situations including contracted work and IR&D.

"We are proceeding aggressively, yet cautiously," Ray states. "Our situation is unique in that we are designing to government specifications and the number of units we are manufacturing on any given program can range from one to several thousand. We are deciding on a program by program basis what makes sense for our products, our customers and our environment."

More on Six Sigma Pilot Projects, Page 4

In this issue. . .

1988 Executive Conference.....	2
MAC-PAC/D.....	2
Perspectives.....	3
New Business Notices.....	3
Six Sigma Design Programs.....	4
Attitudes/88.....	5
Modular Facilities.....	6