

Highlights of SSRI Partnership Meeting

March 31 to April 1, 1992

Executive Summary

This was the first meeting of all SSRI-Participating Companies. SSRI's expectations for this meeting were as follows:

- Define the next generation vision for SSRI
- Extend the current goals and strategies
- Define standardized approach for technology transfer
- Promote greater synergism among partners and SSRI

In his opening address, Mikel Harry presented the above points, and stressed the need for a full sense of ownership and participation by the Partners to make this consortium a functional reality.

After these opening remarks, each Partner presented an introduction to his/her company (annual sales figures, numbers of employees, chief market interests, etc.). Each also presented a prepared statement of what Six Sigma means to their company, what their respective expectations of this alliance are, and what strengths and unique contributions each brings to the table.

A group discussion of our common vision followed, and included:

- the mission of the Partner representatives
- what common elements exist for forging a partnership vision
- a review of SSRI directions and priorities
- identification of "side-bar" projects which could involve selected subsets of the Partners
- some issues raised by the group
- a final consensus that SSRI's present course will meet the needs of all Partners.

A vision statement was not solidified, but Dick Gall of Texas Instruments volunteered to draft one based on the above discussions.

In the afternoon, each Partner presented their "wish lists" to the group. In many ways, these reflected the prepared statements which were made in the morning, so the results of both sessions have been combined in the present report (see Wish Lists).

On the second day, Bill Wiggenhorn reviewed the history of Six Sigma at Motorola, and the origins of the quest for continual quality improvement at Motorola. Thereafter, the Partners focused on technology transfer. The Partner representatives were divided among three working teams who considered common elements involved in the selection and training of "black belts" (statistically-trained technology experts) within their companies, and the transfer of Motorola University/SSRI courses and products to the Partners. The fruitful results of these discussions were a solid indication that the representatives can function well as mixed-company teams, and can put common consortium interests first without jeopardizing the private interests and concerns of their individual companies.

The meeting concluded with a review of some "action items" which are listed separately.

A post-meeting survey indicated consensus approval by over two-thirds of the representatives of the elements presented in the survey (questions and results attached).