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ABSTRACT

Agile Requirements Management - Requirements Management applied in an Agile Project Management environment

This paper looks at how the Requirements Management process of Systems Engineering may benefit from some of the aspects derived from developing systems within an Agile Project Management environment using, as example, the Scaled Agile Framework® of © Scaled Agile, Inc. The aim is to see if some of these Agile aspects can enhance the Systems Engineering approach.

Systems Engineering (SE) is best suited to develop large, complex products¹ in a project environment where the requirements can be defined and fixed upfront. In fact, SE relies on an initial, well-defined End User's need specified in a User Requirements Specification (URS) to establish an initial requirements baseline which is used to drive the rest of the development process. However not all development projects happen that way. Sometimes the End User's need is not clear, or cannot be well defined upfront, thus not allowing it to be captured in a fixed requirements baseline. Furthermore, the project environment may need to accommodate rapid change, both in the End Users' need and in the technologies available to satisfy this need.

In such a project environment, an Agile development approach, as defined in the Scaled Agile Framework® (SAFe®), is more suitable since it allows for incremental delivery of the product and adjustment to requirements. This can accommodate undefined End User requirements, rapid change in requirements and allow for introduction of innovation during the development and implementation stages.

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¹ The term Product in this article, is used in the universal context of the ISO 9001:2000 definition to include both goods and services. i.e. a product as the outcome of a project.