

The Success of Innovative Solutions

Northrop Grumman Space Technology improves Six Sigma program management performance with Unlimited Innovations, Inc.

Northrop Grumman

Unlimited
Innovations
inc

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► The Client Requirements

As a leader in the Aerospace Industry, Northrop Grumman Space Technology had unique program system management requirements for tracking and managing Six Sigma project initiatives. While Space technology had successfully embraced the discipline they realized that in order to improve the performance projects they needed a system that could plan, track and validate the success of their programs.

They also required that the system provide an alert method system in order to accurately monitor project completion status, as well as a reporting system to help gauge the success of a project and the Six Sigma philosophy integration as a whole. Additionally, system speed and efficiency were a requirement by Space technology to support the 8,000+ users accessing the system from all over the US.

► The UI Solution

Based on its past success and an in-depth study on its application to Space Technology's needs, Unlimited Innovations, Inc.'s StartIt! dashboard solution was implemented in less than six months. StartIt! is a web application providing users an easy to use graphical interface supported by Internet Explorer. The StartIt! system was originally designed as a Six Sigma project initiation solution to instantiate projects as well as maintain employee training data and financial forecasts. Because of its quick acceptance into Six Sigma initiatives newer dashboard functionality was added and included, project life cycle and phase transition tracking, deliverable upload, maintenance, alerting, archiving and automated email notifications allowing for greater project efficiency, leading to project closure.

Originally developed for another Northrop Grumman sector, this system was customized to the business case presented by Space Technology. The systems provided solutions for project charter creation, employee training management, and financial forecast reporting. Due to the robustness of the system, user adoption was high and system configuration was fast and simple to provide. Once the system was successfully completed, additional processes were implemented to ensure user needs were addressed immediately to keep pace with continually changing Space Technology's procedures

► The Client

Northrop Grumman Northrop Grumman is a company defined by one word – technology. From under the sea to outer space and into cyberspace, Northrop Grumman technologies and products play a key role in the evolving defense environment of the 21st century. Northrop Grumman is now a top-tier defense company, a full partner with its military customers and an inherent part of the country's national security.

As the second-largest provider of information technology for the federal government, Northrop Grumman is crucial to cyber warfare efforts, helping to protect the U.S. government's computers from Internet attack. This company is also the world's largest naval shipbuilder, with expertise in every class of nuclear and non-nuclear vessel, providing global force projection. As the commercial electronics capabilities remain world-class, their systems integration expertise allowed unparalleled surveillance and precision strike.

From its headquarters in Los Angeles, California, Northrop Grumman operates in 44 states and 25 countries. In 2002, the company's workforce stood at 100,000 strong, bringing in revenues of approximately \$18 billion.

Industries: Military defense, electronics systems, manufacturing

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► The Technology

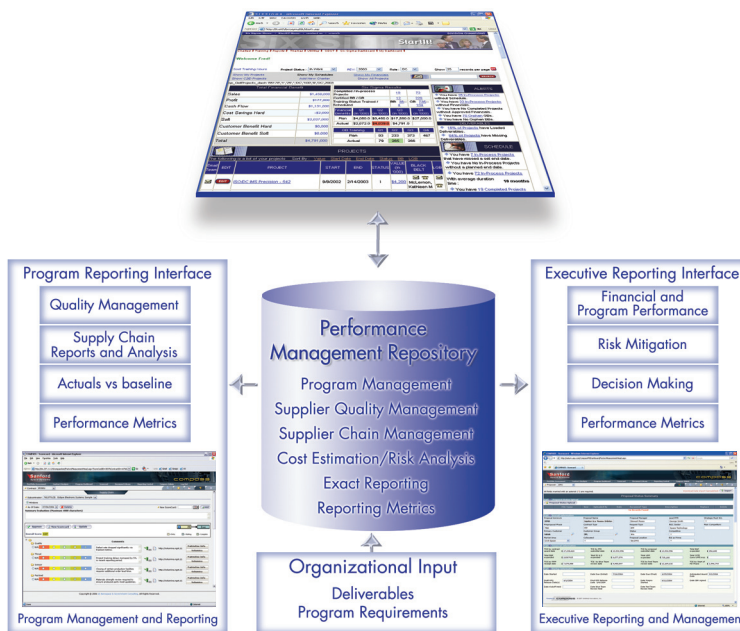
Based on a Windows 2000 Server and MS SQL Server 2000 back-end database, the web portal was built on ASP, JavaScript, and SQL technologies developed using Microsoft Visual Studio and SQL Server tools. Based on the scope of user privileges and needs, the application utilized NT Authentication and LDAP Server queries to dynamically control the user interface providing the project team member with the specific tools and reports necessary to perform their role on the project.

► The Benefits

With StartIt!, Northrop Grumman Space Technologies is now capable of:

- * Employee monitoring from all divisions, locations, and levels to formulate project ideas, track training plans, project status and financial reporting
- * Handling updated company attributes and changes
- * Extending its benefit with email subscription tools, printable pre-filled forms, exportable document formats, logging, and other transactional tools
- * Internal multilevel reporting for any aspect of the Space Technology division
- * Creating a customized solution to allow quick utilization and tracking of Six Sigma processes
- * Evaluation and monitoring the performance of the program and individual divisions/staff areas very effectively to ensure that Six Sigma program's goals are achieved, thus decreasing start-up and programming costs

► Dashboard Highlights



Unlimited Innovations Inc., a California-based company established in 1996 is a leading Software Solutions Provider. We provide Systems Integration, Consulting and Development services on all platforms ranging from the latest XML and ASP-based web applications, Oracle and SQL Server database applications to Integration with Legacy Mainframe and UNIX systems.

Our Microsoft Certified Staff is available to meet your needs in all the latest Microsoft Technologies including Windows 2000, SQL Server 2000, Exchange 2000, Visual Studio and the .net Enterprise Servers.

From mid-size to Fortune 50 organizations, our experts are experienced in designing enterprise-wide architectures and developing IT Strategic Plans.

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