

Northrop Grumman - StartIt! Project

Unlimited
Innovations
inc

"StartIt! is by far superior to anything else I've seen to help manage the programs"

— Steve Stram,
Vice President of Quality and Process Improvement
Northrop Grumman Ship Systems

► The Client Requirements

When reviewing the existing platform tools available for the enterprise wide Six Sigma process improvement initiatives, Northrop Grumman found a lack of options and choices for managing the unique company environment and meeting the multi-site access requirements. Northrop Grumman wanted a solution to include enterprise-wide training, projects management, financial savings tracking, and customized reporting tools.

The solution also could not be found in-house and required the organization to find a strong expertise partner in Unlimited Innovations.

► The UI Solution

Unlimited Innovations created a base web application model to support an immediate ramp-up of Six Sigma initiatives and processes. The application model included tracking needs for training, projects, reporting, and company-specific identifying information such as divisions, employees, cost centers, and other related fields.

To manage the database and move the data handling to the user level, a user personalized web portal site accessible from various platforms was created. The web portal utilizes Microsoft Visual Studio and InterDev tools in conjunction with a Windows 2000 server and SQL software. By placing the web portal on the Intranet site, employees from all divisions, locations, and levels were able to formulate project ideas, schedule, create and track training plans, and to store project attributes and experiences for record keeping and financial reporting.

The system also integrated existing infrastructure from Northrop Grumman's own systems including proprietary security certificates and other employee databases to complement the created data from the actual Six Sigma progress. By using existing data sources, the Six Sigma web portal offered the ability to handle updated attributes and changes to the company including a buyout by a leading defense enterprise that revised the company's profile and data presentation.

► The Partner

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

The Innovation

Northrop Grumman Tracks Detailed Results and Statistics on its Six Sigma Initiative with Unlimited Innovations

► The Answer (cont.)

The customized portal also extends its reach with email subscription tools, printable pre-filled forms, exportable document formats, logging, and other transactional tools to support the needs of the Six Sigma process separate from direct system access. Reporting tools provided are formatted for every level of user from an employee researching a previous project's success to the CEO who can directly monitor the real-time financial savings impact reported from measured Six Sigma projects.

► The Technology

A customized software solution built on a web-based platform using Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Internet Information Service, and Microsoft Windows 2000 Server.

► The Benefits

- Provides real-time results on Six Sigma progress
- Brings together diverse groups into one management system
- Allows powerful searching and filtering capabilities
- Easily integrates within existing environment and user base
- Creates highlights based on flexible reporting
- Encourages seamless end-user data management

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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