

More importantly, we established a solid baseline and each location has a detailed roadmap for improvement per the model structure. Field locations have been working improvements and the first round of follow-on appraisals began in the spring of 2001. The original evaluation team members constitute the personnel pool to support independent evaluation of improvements similar to the industry approach with a CBA IPI.

Conclusion

DCMA was always required and continues to conduct evaluations of contractor's software development processes per the FAR. The agency is now deploying a standard methodology via continuous process evaluations that is organized in the CMM, the common DoD language, and is based on the day-to-day observations of the in-plant DCMA personnel. Findings are peer-reviewed, and all data is freely shared with the applicable contractor and is available to government program offices.

While full agency implementation will not occur until spring 2002, the approach has been developed with SEI affiliates and is currently in pilot testing at 45 percent of DCMA field locations. Program offices, the contractors, and the DoD are already realizing benefits. So, how much does the agency believe in using this approach to gauge contractor operations? Enough so that we are walking the walk and measuring our operations to the same framework. ♦

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