Tutorial

Distributed Engineering Teams – Lessons from Industry

Call for Participation

Venue:
Tuesday 19. August 2014
ICGSE 2014 in Shanghai

Summary:
Successfully managing distributed projects on an industry scale has rapidly become a key competence for any engineering manager. Challenges vary, be it distributed teams and collaboration technologies, handling cultural diversity and multisite projects, optimizing outsourcing and offshoring capacities, or managing suppliers. The vast majority of global activities do not deliver to targets and half of them fail. The diversity of cultures, suppliers and products require dedicated techniques, tools, and practices to overcome challenges. This tutorial summarizes experiences and guidance from industry in a way to help knowledge and technology transfer. It looks to processes and approaches for successfully handling global software development and outsourcing and offers many practical hints and concrete explanations to make distributed teams and projects a success. Session attendees can raise specific questions from industry practice or academic research to get first-hand insight into GSE state of practice as well as new thoughts and trends that will shape the future.

Target Audience:
- Developers and engineers working in global development projects to make their collaboration more effective.
- Software and IT managers on all levels from the individual working in a distributed team to the senior manager who has to decide where to open a new site and what it means to be successful.
- Project managers and project teams who want to succeed with distributed activities.
- Product managers and R&D managers taking advantage of globalization.
- Procurement interested in making sourcing of development partners more effective.
- Suppliers trying to understand best practices and what needs drive their clients.
Value:
The tutorial is embedded to the “Industry Day” at ICGSE and provides concrete industry experiences from globally distributed projects, both sourcing, rightshoring and captive. It covers topics such as managing people in distributed sites, managing a project across locations, mitigating the risk of offshoring, processes for global development, practical outsourcing guidelines, communication and effective collaboration technologies. Based on the author’s vast experiences through the past two decades in setting up and managing global engineering sites, it shares best practices from companies of different size, organization layout, cultures and industries around the globe. Perhaps most relevant even, the tutorial highlights means and strategies to survive in a globally dispersed work environment.

Key Take-aways:
The tutorial is useful for several purposes, namely
- Hands-on experiences with opportunities, lessons learned, and risks.
- Practical insights for industry practitioners and managers.
- Helping each single reader to improve his global software activities.

Duration:
3 hours

Prerequisites:
none

Level:
Basic – Intermediate
The tutorial specifically addresses industry persons who want to fast ramp up on best practices in GSE

Biography Christof Ebert:
Dr. Christof Ebert is managing director at Vector Consulting Services. He supports clients around the world to sustainably improve product strategy and product development and to manage organizational changes. He serves on a number of advisory and industry bodies and lectures at the Universities of Stuttgart in Germany, and Sorbonne Paris in France. Prior to that, he held engineering and management positions for ten years in IT, transportation and aerospace. Over the years he had set up several offshoring sites and supported numerous companies in mitigating global software engineering and outsourcing risks and thus getting concrete benefits from such programs.

Dr. Ebert is the author of the best-selling book "Global Software and IT" published by Wiley and IEEE in 2012. He serves on the executive board of the IEEE International Conference on Global Software Engineering (ICGSE) series, and is a SEI certified CMMI Instructor. Contact: christof.ebert@vector.com
Book: “Global Software and IT” and promotion code: www.vector.com/global-software