



## Metronos – Project Terms of Reference

### Background:

Metrics and measurement when applied to software mean many things in the industry and the wider world. There is particular confusion among the business community which has no shared understanding of measurement or measures. There are no specific standards, benchmarks or accessible resources. Anyone can measure and produce numbers but there are no agreed methods to verify either the numbers or the producer!

UKSMA has conceived the idea for a General Software Metrics Qualification analogous to the APMG Prince 2 qualifications. As a first step the project has been code named METRONOS (which is made up from **Metron**; Greek for measurement, **Of Software**).

### Approach:

The UKSMA management committee under the chairmanship of Rob Ratcliff and in accordance with UKSMA's rules are commissioning a special sub group to take ownership of this idea and develop it. It will be called the Metronos Development Group or Metronos-DG. It is suggested as a means of providing a strong co-ordinated 'identity' that all activity associated with the project should be in the form of Metronos-XX.

### Purpose:

It is necessary to form this special group to enable further development of the idea separate from the management committee's normal workload and make it possible for external participation from as wide a community as possible.

### Objectives:

The objectives for the METRONOS project are –

1. Create a scheme for a General Software Measurement Qualifications to comprise the following Products :-
  - ?? Software Measurement Knowledge Repository (KR)
  - ?? Course Syllabus (CS)
  - ?? Entry Criteria for Taking the Examinations (EC)
  - ?? Two Examination Papers (Foundation & Practitioner) (FE/PE)
  - ?? Two Marking Schedules (FM/PM)
  
2. Create a Measurement Repository (MR)

To underpin the work of the scheme a data repository will be required to contain Standards, Methods, Techniques and Measures. The repository will also maintain metrics names, definitions, descriptions, attributes, sources, examples and acknowledgements.

Note: The Measurement Repository may form the basis of a separate product which could be web enabled at a later stage and made available free.



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3. A mechanism is also required to enable the scheme to be updated easily and quickly to account for the volatile nature of the measurement environment.
4. The scheme to conform to the aims of UKSMA as the designated design authority
5. The scheme to take account of and accommodate a designated accreditation authority (i.e. APMG).
6. Establish criteria and rationale for the inclusion for all existing known methods, techniques and standards i.e. CMM, ISO etc.
7. Co-operate with external bodies or institutions, such as ISBSG who may render support and expertise.
8. To conform to the publishing requirements of HM Stationers Office who may undertake to publish the manual. (This objective has not be approved and is included as a potential opportunity to more widely advertise and recognise the Product)

## **Composition and Authority to Act:**

The composition of the sub group will be open to all interested parties, with the final selection being ratified by the UKSMA management committee. At the first meeting the DG a Chair should be appointed. The Chair will be responsible for arranging meetings / workshops and managing the group's documentation. The group should also determine a scheme of work and set the priorities and responsibilities.

## **Timeframe:**

No timeframe has been stipulated but it will be the SG's responsibility to create a project plan with specific, measurable milestones and deliverables.

## **Budget:**

The nature and constitution of UKSMA preclude a specific budget being allocated to the DG. However, reasonable expenses will be reimbursed where required subject to prior agreement from the management committee. It may also be possible, if necessary to progress the project more speedily, to reimburse special expenses.