System of Systems (SoS) Systems Engineering in Acquisition Program Planning

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Background and Purpose

• DoD has recognized the criticality of ensuring that acquisition programs consider impacts of operational and systems context
  – Significant program issues have resulted from inadequate attention to key program interdependencies
  – Critical to address SoS context in system requirements and design and effectively work with external systems to address system interdependencies
  – 2011 SE Plan outline and guidance included specific attention to program dependencies and management of external relationships

• Purpose of this presentation is to discuss experience to date and the way ahead
  – Present the results of ‘SoS reviews’ of SE plans and other acquisition documents for a set of Major Defense Acquisition Programs
  – Discuss the results and way ahead
Foundations

SoS SE Guide with supporting materials prepared with US Army as part of cooperative activity

SoS SE Artifacts
Developed as part of an international SoS SE project under The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP)

Implementers View
Representation that corresponds with incremental development approaches that are the norm for SoS capability evolution

Applying Understanding of SoS SE to SoS Considerations for Acquisition Programs

http://www.acq.osd.mil/se/initiatives/init_sos-se.html
SoS Considerations in the Systems Engineering Plan (SEP)

SEP Outline - 20 April 2011

1. Introduction – Purpose and Update Plan
2. Program Technical Requirements
   2.1. Architectures and Interface Control
   2.2. Technical Certifications
3. Engineering Resources and Management
   3.1. Technical Schedule and Schedule Risk Assessment
   3.2. Engineering Resources and Cost/Schedule Reporting
   3.3. Engineering and Integration Risk Management
   3.4. Technical Organization
   3.5. Relationships with External Technical Organizations
   3.6. Technical Performance Measures and Metrics
4. Technical Activities and Products
   4.1. Results of Previous Phase SE Activities
   4.2. Planned SE Activities for the Next Phase
   4.3. Requirements Development and Change Process
   4.4. Technical Reviews
   4.5. Configuration and Change Management Process
   4.6. Design Considerations
   4.7. Engineering Tools

• SoS context for system acquisition
  – Identify dependencies and context impacts on system requirements

• SoS Related Risks
  – Identify, assess and manage risks related to dependencies

• Management of dependencies
  – Develop relationships with external organizations

• Technical plans address SoS considerations
  – Organize and plan to address SoS concerns

Additions to SEP to recognize important role of SoS in systems acquisition

http://www.acq.osd.mil/se/pg/guidance.html
2. Program Technical Requirements

2.1. Architectures and Interface Control – List the architecture products that will be developed, to include system level physical and software architectures..

- A system physical architecture diagram (delineating physical interfaces), if available.
- A system functional architecture diagram (delineating functional interfaces), if available.
- How software architecture priorities will be developed and documented.
- How architecture products are related to requirements definition.
- How engineering and architecture activities are linked.

Expectations: Programs whose system has external interfaces need to have dependencies (i.e., hierarchy) clearly defined. This should include interface control specifications, which should be confirmed early on and placed under strict configuration control. Compatibility with other interfacing systems and common architectures should be maintained throughout the development/design process.

\[ \text{SYSTEMS ENGINEERING PLAN (SEP)} \]
\[ \text{Version 1.0, 04/20/2011, page 7} \]
3.5. **Relationships with External Technical Organizations** - What processes or methods will be used to document, facilitate, and manage interaction among SE team(s), external-to-program government organizations (e.g., FoS/SoS and contractor(s)/ competing contractor(s)) on technical tasks, activities, and responsibilities (e.g., requirements, technical baselines, and technical reviews) down to and including subcontractors.

- **Responsible Organization and Authority** - Identify the organization responsible for coordinating SE and integration efforts associated with the FoS/SoS and its authority to reallocate resources (funding and manpower).

- **Management** - Summarize how FoS/SoS interfaces will be managed to include:
  - Resolution of issues that cross PM, PEO, and Component lines;
  - Interface Control Documents (ICDs) and any interface control WGs (ICWGs);
  - Memorandums-of-Agreement (MOAs);
  - “Triggers” that require a FoS/SoS member to inform the others if there is a cost, schedule, or performance deviation;
  - Planned linkage between hardware and software upgrade programs within the FoS/SoS;
  - Any required Government Furnished Equipment/Property/Government Furnished Information (GFE/GFP/GFI) (e.g., test ranges, integration laboratories, and special equipment).

- **Schedule** - Include a schedule (optional) which shows FoS/SoS dependencies such as alignment of technical reviews, major milestones, test phases, GFE/GFP/GFI, etc.

Addresses program approach to management of dependencies

**SYSTEMS ENGINEERING PLAN (SEP)**
Version 1.0, 04/20/2011, page 18
Relationships With External Organizations (2 of 2)

**Expectations: Programs should:**
- Recognize the importance of managing both the internal program schedule while maintaining synchronization with external programs’ schedules.
- Develop MOAs with interfacing organizations that include:
  - Tripwires and notification to FoS/SoS members of any significant (nominally > 10%) variance in cost, schedule, or performance;
  - Mechanisms for FoS/SoS members to comment on any proposed interface changes; and
  - Fast-track issue identification and resolution process.
- Develop a synchronized program schedule with interfacing programs schedules to provide insight into the potential impact of interfacing program schedule changes to include milestones, technical reviews, test periods.
- Inform Component and OSD staffs so they better understand synchronizing funding and aligning priorities with external programs.

- **Includes clear identification of**
  - Responsibilities & resources
  - Technical documentation (ICDs)
  - Technical management of issues and planned upgrades
  - Schedules
The Data

• **47 Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs)**
  - 21% in Material Solutions Analysis (MSA) Phase
  - 51% in Technology Development (TD) Phase
  - 28% in Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) Phase

• **All produced one or more plans (SEP, TDS or AS) from September 2011 – June 2012**
  - 70% (33) programs – SE Plan (SEP)
  - 45% (21) programs – Acquisition or Tech Development Strategy
  - 21% (10) programs – Both

• **Reviews were conducted of the plans for each program**
  - Included informal, formal and final plans
  - Assess extent and nature of SoS issues or risks identified in review of program plans
**Issue Areas**

- **Issues were identified in 3 areas**
  - **Context** - Programs are asked (SEP Section 2.1):
    - To present the larger architecture for their systems
    - To identify the interfaces and external dependencies for their acquisition program
  - **Management** of external relationships - Programs are asked to:
    - Provide MOAs with external organizations (Section 2.1)
    - Present (SEP Section 3.5) plans for working with these organizations to address dependencies
  - **Technical** approach to SoS considerations - Programs address
    - SoS requirements in their plans for (Section 4) ‘Technical Activities and Products” for the system as whole and in their identification and mitigation of risks (Section 3.3)

- **Critical issues identified in plans were addressed in revisions**
- **Too early to tell if addressing SoS in plans leads to improved program performance**
Results from the Perspective of What Is Being ‘Acquired’

Current Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) include some acquisitions which address systems, some which address platforms, others which address missions, or some combination.

An SoS, a suite of systems which together support a user capability or an integrating SoS element.

A warfighting platform (e.g. air or ground vehicle).

A weapons, sensor, communications or information system.
## Systems, Platforms and SoS

- Data includes programs acquiring systems, platforms and SoS

### System (21) | Platform (18) | System of Systems (8)
---|---|---
AF Integrated Personnel and Pay System (AF-IPPS) | Abrams ECP | Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF)
Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR) | Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV) | Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD)
B2 Defensive Management System (DMS) Mod Prog | Apache Block 3 | DCGS-A
CANES | Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) | Enhanced Polar System (EPS)
Chemical Demil-Assembled Chemical Weapons Alt (ACWA) | B2 EHF & SATCOM 1 | Integrated Electronic Health Record (IEHR)
Defense Enterprise Accounting And Management System | B61 Life Extension Program - Tailkit Assembly | Joint Space Center (JSpOC) Mission System (JMS)
eProcurement (eProc) | Bradley ECP | Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Mission Module (MM)
Excalibur | Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH) | Space Fence
Family of Advanced Beyond Line-of-Sight Terminals (FAB-T) | F-22 Increment 3.2B | 
GPS Next Generation Operational Control System (OCX) | F-35 Lightning | 
GPS-MGUE | Fleet Replenishment Tanker (T-AO(X)) | 
Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army (IPPS-A) | GCV | 
Integrated Strategic Planning and Analysis Network (ISPA) | Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) | 
Joint Personnel Identification V2 (JPIv2) System | LCS Seaframe | 
Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) | MQ-4C Triton Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) | 
Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) | MQ-9 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) | 
Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN) Increment 1 | P-8A Poseidon Increment 3 | 
Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) | Paladin Integration Management (PIM) | 
Ship to Shore Connector (SSC) | | 
Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar (3DELRR) | | 

### ‘SoS’

![SoS Image]

### ‘Platforms’

![Platforms Image]

### ‘Systems’

![Systems Image]
Acquiring Platforms, Systems or SoS

- **Identified issues for program types and issue areas**
  - Platform programs seem to be doing the best at addressing SoS considerations; for 44% of the programs there were no SoS issues identified in the reviews.
  - On the other hand, programs classified as SoS had the most issue; only 13% with no SoS issues identified in the reviews.

...More interesting than the numbers are the specific types of issues which tend to face platforms, systems and SoS.
**Potential SoS risks:**

- Technical, schedule, performance, or funding disconnects between systems and the platforms or SoS
  - System doesn’t ‘fit’ on platform or adequately support SoS capability
  - No funding or plan for integration
  - System is not delivered in time for the platform or other elements of SoS

**Issues**

- **Missing information** on context and management
  - Architecture and dependencies
  - Plans for working with external organizations, including MOAs

- **Internally focused** and don’t address external considerations in
  - Technical organization
  - Technical processes
  - Risks
  - Schedule

**SoS Issues in system program plans** span the spectrum (context, management and technical) and are also found in platforms and SoS
# Issues for Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Area</th>
<th>%*</th>
<th>Description of Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Context** | 33% | • Did not provide the information or it was at such a **high level** it was not useful  
• Pointed to other documents for the information but did not present the **implications** for system requirements or SE approach  
• Despite the interfaces shown in architecture and other diagrams, indicated in the text they had **no dependencies** |
| **Mgmt** | 52% | • Missing **MOAs**  
• Inadequate discussion of **roles and responsibilities**.  
• Inadequate management approach to relationships with **external** organizations  
• No planning for impacts of future, **planned** upgrades |
| **Technical** | 48% | • **Technical organization** is entirely internally focused and does not include participation of external organizations  
• **Technical processes** do not address working with external organizations, including  
  o Obtaining, integrating, and installing the GFE throughout development and fielding  
  o Managing external interfaces  
• **Schedule** does not include interactions with external organizations or dependencies  
• Do not address **risks** related to configuration management of the external interfaces |

* % of ‘system’ programs where issue of this type was identified in one or more plans
Platform program issues focus integration of systems developed independently from the platform, particularly addressing SWAP-C considerations.

* Size, Weight, Power, and Cooling

Potential risks:

- Technical, schedule, performance, or funding disconnects between platform and the system or the SoS
  - System doesn’t ‘fit’ on platform
  - No funding or plan for integration
  - System is not delivered in time for the platform
  - Delivered product may not effectively support the capability that motivated its development (data exchange, compatible functionality, etc.)

Issues

- Failure to identify dependencies and SWAP-C* issues early
  - Impact on requirements and early planning
- Inadequate management approach
  - GFE roles and responsibilities
  - External system integration
- Lack of technical processes for
  - GFE integration, risk and schedule
  - Addressing SWAP-C technical issues
## Issues for Platforms

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<th>Issue Area</th>
<th>%*</th>
<th>Description of Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Context** | 40% | • Failed to identify and address inherent risk with independent developments, particularly the **systems which are intended to support the platform** being acquired  
• Did not recognize **SWAP-C dependencies** early in the acquisition so they can be addressed in requirements and development approach |
| **Mgmt**    | 50% | • Lack of defined roles and responsibilities associated with **GFE** throughout development and fielding  
• An inadequate approach to managing **external system integration** planning and implementation |
| **Technical** | 70% | • A lack of technical processes for **managing, scheduling and integrating GFE**  
• Government lead systems integrator is not well defined  
• Do not address risks associated with interdependency with GFE providers  
• Schedule does not consider GFE program interdependencies and hence no indication of Interdependency risks and mitigation  
• Inadequate attention to **technical issues associated with platform SWAP-C considerations** |

* % of ‘system’ programs where issue of this type was identified in one or more plans
SoS

Potential Risks

- Conflict between SoS decisions and constituent system decisions can lead to disconnects between the systems and the SoS
- May be difficult to get closure on current acquisition milestone reviews because of risk of the SoS dependencies on systems decisions not considered in current milestone criteria
- Design of the SoS component does not adequately address SoS capability needs
- Integration into/with constituent systems is not adequately planned of funded across the SoS

Issues

- Limited exposure of complexity of the dependencies
  - And the impact on program
- Unclear roles and responsibilities with constituent systems
  - Reflected in issues related to organization, processes, agreements across systems
- Lack of technical attention to
  - Integration risks
  - Schedule coordination
  - Interface testing
  - Cross cutting TPMs

SoS program issues center on the complexities of an acquisition dependent on multiple independent players
## Issues for SoS

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<th>%*</th>
<th>Description of Issues</th>
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<td>29%</td>
<td>• Did not address the <strong>complexity</strong> of the SoS including the relationships among the programs involved well enough to provide the basis for the plans for the <strong>coordinated developments</strong> involved in the acquisition program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mgt        | 47% | • Poorly defined roles and responsibilities of the key players, particularly the constituent systems and their relationship to the acquisition program  
• Lack MOAs or other documents describing roles and responsibilities  
• Approach to organizational coordination is unclear  
• Cost management is decentralized and no mechanism for monitoring cost issues across the SoS |
| Technical  | 47% | • Failure to identify and address integration risk  
• Insufficient attention to interface testing  
• Technical analysis considerations for constituent systems is lacking  
• Technical Performance Measures (TPMs) not explicitly shown for the SoS as well as the constituent systems  
• Technical strategy of distributed development without adequate integration and prototyping has high technical risk not addressed by the program |

* % of ‘system’ programs where issue of this type was identified in one or more plans
### Programs by Acquisition Phase

Data includes programs at different acquisition phases

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<th>Technology Development (TD)</th>
<th>Engineering, Manufacturing, and Development (EMD)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>CANES</td>
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Acquisition Phase

Were there differences for programs at different stages of acquisition?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No SoS Issues</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Mgt</th>
<th>Tech</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMD</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Later in cycle

- Fewer SoS issues identified in plans
  - 20-25% plans had no issues at MSA/TD
  - 38% had no issues at EMD
- Fewer technical issues in plans
  - 80% plans had technical issues at MSA
  - ~40% of plans at TD/EMD
Observations

• **SoS considerations are risk drivers in all program types**
  – All systems deploy as part of a **mission context** which may impact system requirements, design etc. This context must be considered from the start.
    – Need to share information across systems is common and well recognized
  – In some cases, system effectiveness depends on **external system dependencies** (e.g. precision sensor feeds for new precision weapons)
    – Each program is responsible to develop a way to address these dependencies
    – If recognized and tracked on a case by case basis, risks can be identified and addressed
  – Independent development of **platforms and the systems which they host** (and depend upon) is a common source of SoS issues
    – Recent problems have highlighted this type of SoS issue and heightened effort of programs to address this in their plans
  – **SoS programs** face a particularly broad set of management and coordination issues
    – Overlapping management and technical authorities make developing an effective approach difficult to plan and implement
    – Complexities of adapting current systems to meet new objectives particularly when systems continue to support current users pose particular challenges and risks
Additional Observations (2 of 2)

• **SoS considerations are a new element in plans, so many of the issues may be due to a lack of understanding of expectations**
  – Programs have been responsive to correcting deficiencies in revisions

• **Even when interdependencies are identified, tendency is to wait and address these later in a system acquisition**
  – One of many considerations facing a program
  – Outside of program control so may get less attention until they become a problem

• **SoS considerations can pose difficult issues without well understood or clearly demonstrated approaches**
  – Can account for high level descriptions of approach to address SoS dependencies
Summary and Conclusions

• Acquisition programs are now addressing SoS considerations in the SE plans
  – Important because SE Plans reflect PM priorities

• SE Plans for programs of all types have SoS issues
  – Systems program have general issues across the board, issues which are also observed in platform and SoS programs
  – Platform programs issues focus on GFE integration, particularly SWAP-C
  – SoS program issues center on the complexities of an acquisition dependent on multiple independent players

• Programs later in acquisition seem to have somewhat fewer SoS issues with their plans
  – However, early risk identification is important; focus area for MS A SEP

• Reviews reveal areas for increased reinforcement by leadership
  – Services and Agencies, DAU, functional leadership can assist in proper planning

• Heightens need to identify effective approaches and share these across the acquisition and SE community

• And we do see these issues become problems that impact program success
Questions?

For additional information:

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Systems Engineering: Critical to Program Success

Innovation, Speed, and Agility
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