

Support Solutions Envelope (SSE)

Overview

The Support Solutions Envelope (SSE) is the tool used by the UK MoD to manage the coherence of support solutions between projects and compliance with evolving Defence support policy. All projects are required to be assessed against the SSE as part of the UK MoD Investment Appraisal process and industry is increasingly being tasked to produce SSE compliance reports.

The course begins with an overview of the origins of the SSE and the UK MoDs Project Review and Assurance Process in order to understand the SSEs role in the context of overall project governance. The structure of the SSE website and its content are described to familiarise delegates with the SSE and its breadth and depth of content. The course then continues with an examination of the UK MoDs compliance assessment process and an introduction to the Compliance Assessment Matrix before describing an improved work flow and methodology. This will enable better integration of the SSE requirements into the overall Supportability Engineering process. SSE outputs will be linked to tasks, risks, constraints and system requirements in order to shift from being a project overhead to adding value. The material will include an understanding of the relative roles of all stakeholders from the UK MoD and industry communities.

The course concludes with one of two optional elements; a general compliance assessment exercise or a project specific facilitated workshop (company or Project specific courses only).

The course is designed and presented by Vic Steadman, a retired military Officer who, before retirement, led the UK MoDs SSE team for 3 years and was responsible for its development into a project assurance tool and the creation of the Supportability Assurance Group.

Target Audience

The course is applicable to those working in the Defence Sector on equipment projects and will be of interest primarily to Integrated Logistic Support (ILS) / Logistic Support Analysis (LSA) managers / practitioners and Product Support managers involved in designing equipment support solutions. It will also provide an essential overview for project managers, system design engineers and commercial staff involved in the delivery of equipment solutions.

Whilst the course provides those within industry knowledge of the UK MoDs internal governance processes, the course is very applicable to UK MoD staff that need to gain more knowledge about the practical application of the SSE.

Objectives and Utility

On completion of this training course, delegates will appreciate the role of the SSE and know how to apply it to UK MoD projects. They will be able to prepare a compliance report which is increasingly a required deliverable on equipment projects.

The delegate will benefit professionally from the knowledge imparted and be able to assess their projects against the SSE.

The sponsoring organisation will benefit from the delegate's better understanding of the freedoms and constraints involved in designing a support solution for the UK MoD, reducing project risks and avoiding nugatory work. Use of the SSE will indicate the bounds of acceptable support solutions and identify where UK MoD approval is required thus avoiding wasted time and effort in developing innovative support elements that may later be rejected by the UK MoD.

If the course is given to an individual company or project team, it will culminate in a facilitated workshop to conduct a 'real' SSE compliance assessment. The project team will therefore benefit from a baselined assessment report that will form the basis to meeting the UK MoDs needs.

The Training Process

The course includes presentations and discussions on the SSE and how to apply it to an equipment project. It will be supplemented by a practical exercise, which uses the methodology previously taught to conduct compliance assessment.

As an option to the generic exercise offered for 'public' courses, it is possible to tailor this exercise to a specific project in the form of a facilitated compliance workshop on courses conducted at company or project level.

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Course Programme

Day 01 - AM

135 SSE Introduction and Background

This module describes the origins of the SSE, how it has evolved over time and how it is now being used within the UK MoD. The concepts of Supportability Assurance and the UK MoDs Project Review and Assurance process are described in order to put the SSE into context.

136 The Support Solutions Envelope (SSE)

This module describes the SSE web site in detail, explaining how it is organised and how to navigate through it. It explains the 'anatomy' of the UK MoDs Governing Policies (GP) and introduces the concept of compliance assessment. The impact of the SSE on industry is discussed.

137 SSE Compliance Assessment

The concept of Compliance Assessment introduced in the previous module is examined in more detail looking at the UK MoD's internal assessment process and reporting mechanism and the role of industry. The shortcomings of the process are identified.

138 An Improved SSE Compliance Methodology

Having previously identified the shortcomings of the existing compliance assessment methodology, the course continues by putting forward a methodology which better integrates the SSE into an overall Supportability Engineering programme and so adds value to a project. The assessment is used to identify items of work, risks and opportunities as well as project constraints and system requirements. The module introduces Aspire's internal database tool for conducting SSE compliance assessments.

Day 01 - PM

139 Compliance Assessment Exercise (Option 1)

This practical module introduces delegates to the conduct of an SSE compliance matrix using the methodology previously taught. The exercise highlights the divisions of responsibility between UK MoD, as Customer, and industry, as Supplier. Delegates will conduct an assessment on a theoretical project.

140 SSE Facilitated Workshop (Option 2)

When the course is presented to specific project or company groups, the exercise can be conducted as a facilitated SSE compliance assessment on a real project. The outputs of the exercise will be a baseline compliance report, an action plan of action needed to complete the assessment, input to the project risk register and identified project support constraints.

141 SSE Conclusion

The course will conclude with a summary of the main lessons learned and an examination of the relevant roles of the UK MoD and industry in the SSE process.