

Using the CMMI for Acquisition - A Strategy for Successful Outsourcing  
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Many organization use outsourcing in order to reduce development cost or shorten time to market. However, in many cases the outsourcing activities do not provide the required results. The suppliers don't provide the required product on the agreed schedule, with the required functionality and the required quality. The causes for these problems are the belief that when you outsource you don't have to do any thing – “just pay and get the product”, not always suitable suppliers are being selected, frequently the agreements are not complete and ambiguous, the acquirers do not monitor the suppliers' activities and the processes and often they are not reviewing the technical solution.

On 2007, the SEI released the CMMI for Acquisition model that includes best practices for organizations that outsource development of parts of their products or services. The model is an extension of CMMI for Development model and shares with it a common core of best practices divided into process areas for project management, support activities and process management. The Acquisition model includes a category of process areas with best practices that deal with the selection of a suitable supplier and how to technically manage the outsourced development.

The lecture will present the model focusing on the process areas that are part of the acquisition category and how the model can be used for process improvement to ensure successful outsourcing processes. In addition, it will provide guidelines how the acquirer should handle outsourcing efforts when the suppliers are using the CMMI model for development.