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Panel O-50 - SNAME's T&R Bulletin on the subject of Quality

Panel O-50 was awarded a grant to develop the first SNAME's T&R Bulletin on the subject of Quality

The proposed publication entitled "A Guide to Practical Quality Management Tools and Techniques for the Maritime Industry" is due to be ready for members at the beginning of 2013. The uniqueness of this bulletin is that it will incorporate side by side conventional quality principles with elements of behavioral quality management that address the soft skills needed to successfully implement quality systems.

The goal of the proposed project is to make available to professionals in the maritime industry, practical and up-to-date tools and techniques that will facilitate the improvement of design, construction and operations of marine vehicles. The project is an outgrowth of the authors' extensive knowledge, experience, passion and commitment to increasing the awareness for quality improvement as a vital element of the maritime industry.

This bulletin will provide practical guidelines to Naval Architects and Marine Engineers on the application of quality engineering and quality management principles. This project will assemble the most appropriate elements of the body-of-knowledge for the benefit of SNAME members. The tools and techniques to be included in this bulletin, in most cases, originated in the manufacturing sector. However, in recent years these tools have been widely applied in the service sector covering industries such as health care, automotive, aviation, education and the armed forces.

The proposed bulletin will include an introduction offering a historical perspective of the basic principles of quality. It will present more advanced topics in project selection and management, teambuilding, decision making, critical thinking and problem solving. Included will be special tools for reducing waste and increasing productivity of shipyard production lines. Also included will be tools for naval architects and engineers to improve their performance. The bulletin will emphasize tools, checklists, and matrices that can be easily applied in practice. It will also provide guidance on how to develop soft skills related to quality such as communication, conflict resolution, team building, customer loyalty, just to name a few topics.

The contents will be derived from the authors' vast knowledge in this field, their training, facilitation anecdotes, and quality systems implementation experience. It will be complemented by the research findings conducted by the authors for their upcoming book on quality culture.

To make the publication appealing to a broader audience the authors will establish from the outset an advisory team representing different disciplines. These disciplines will include but will not be limited to, shipyards, educational institutions, private consultants, small businesses, engineering and Naval Architecture firms, ship operators, just to name few. The authors will seek input and opinions on a range of issues on a regular basis, especially on the scope, depth and breadth of the content. The advisory team will also serve as a sounding board and will be privy to the final draft before final submission to the T&R

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The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers

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