



Validating Times

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New Year Greetings



SE Validation sends greetings and very best wishes for 2010 to colleagues, customers and friends. We have not sent out cards or posted newsletters this year, but instead will be making a donation to the charity "Water Aid". However, we still wish to keep in touch with you all.

As with many small businesses 2009 has been a challenging year and we have had to say goodbye to two valued colleagues, Richard and Ian, who fortunately are still very active in the system safety world. SE Validation continues to be active across a range of validation topics. A number of relevant 2009 events are highlighted below and on our website.

We look forward to the new decade and wish you all good health, success and prosperity in 2010.

Some 2009 events ...

In March, Colin presented a one-day tutorial at the INCOSE (International Council on System Engineering) Spring Conference entitled: "Introduction to Using and Managing System Assurance Networks". For nearly two decades assurance networks have been successfully used to document and communicate why stakeholders should have justified confidence in the properties of complex and potentially risky systems. However, producing and managing them is not easy. This tutorial introduced delegates to the kinds of networks there are, why they are being increasingly required by international standards and how they can be used effectively to help plan, manage, and document system engineering endeavours.

May saw Colin present to the Adelard ASCE User Group on the subject of "Assurance Networks for Complex Systems". This paper included SE validation developments in the shared assurance of complex systems since the INCOSE tutorial. In turn, further developments were incorporated into this material for the October IBM presentation noted below.

In June, Colin, Ted and Richard visited the Seawork exhibition at Southampton which features working boats for coastal and harbour waters. The occasion was for Ted's presentation: "A Risk Evaluation for a Small-scale Sea-based Trial to Satisfy a New Operational Requirement, or **Ribs & Risks**". This was based on the paper written jointly by Ted and Richard for the 3rd IET International Conference on System Safety held at NEC Birmingham in 2008: "Case Study in Risk Evaluation for a Small-scale Sea-based Trial to Satisfy a New Operational Requirement". This paper was well received at both events since it deals with the situation where system safety risks need to be managed during operation rather than just during design and build.

Martin made his first presentation for SE Validation at the IBM International Rational Software Conference held in London in October on the subject of "Best Practice in the Assurance of Complex Systems". The figure below illustrates the basic 4-view approach he presented which is designed to allow coherent linkages to be made between decision-making, planning, implementing and evaluation activities across multiple distributed organisations.

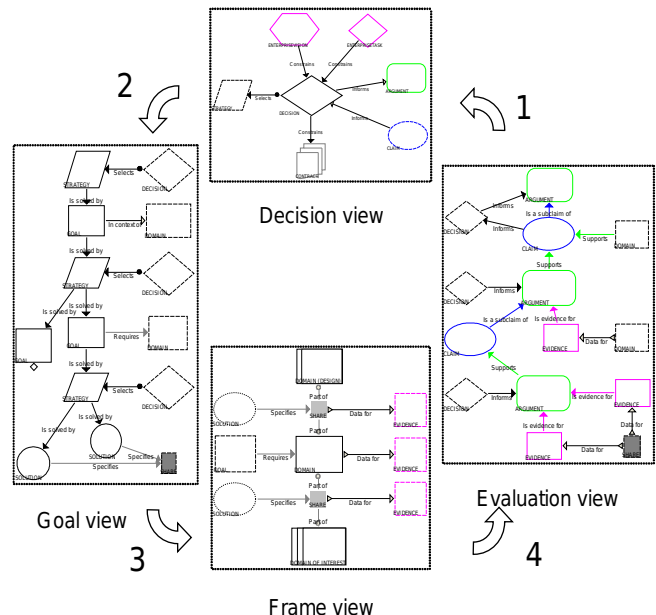


Figure showing SE Validation's 4-view approach to the assurance of complex systems.

Finally, during the year SE Validation was pleased to be able to help sponsor Roman Glassmakers (www.romanglassmakers.co.uk) to produce a set of DVDs to record the historical validation work done during the Roman furnace projects in 2005 and 2006.