

Considerations Regarding Project Selection for Technical Training

William Ross¹

Abstract

Implementation of continuous improvement initiatives (e.g., Sigma Science^{®2} Six Sigma³, Lean, Total Quality) is a widely recognized approach to realizing enhanced business results. These initiatives typically include a deployment and a sustaining phase. The deployment phase includes education and application to justify and convince the organization of the potential benefits. Application of the methodology utilized by the initiative is imperative to demonstrate the effectiveness of the initiative. Initial questions organizations ask when they embrace a new initiative concern advice on project selection. Providing guidance regarding project selection is a challenge. The selection of appropriate projects is highly dependent on the situation. In this paper I provide recommendations on considerations for project selection for various situations. It may be useful to create a *process* for project selection as criteria for project selection will no doubt be dynamic over changing business conditions.

Introduction

Achieving results in business is a fundamental requirement. The question is how to most efficiently and effectively achieve results. Using projects as a basic deployment strategy for planning, organizing, allocating resources, and ultimately meeting objectives is common in business. It seems nearly every business objective is realized through some type of *project*. Launching a new product, implementing a revised cost accounting system or improving a production process are activities typically accomplished via some type of project. Key elements to being successful at using a *project-based* scheme include understanding:

- Motivation (Why is the project being started? What does success look like?),
- Definition (What questions need to be answered),
- Organization (Who will be involved, accountable?),
- Resource allocation (What resources are available? What is the sense of urgency?),
- Measurement (How will success be measured?), and
- Follow-up (What are the key learnings and next steps of investigation?).

¹ Bill is the founder and CEO of Sigma Science Inc.

² Sigma Science is a registered trademark.

³ Six Sigma is a registered trade mark of Motorola