

## **CMMI International Software Development Process Standard Level 3 Attained**

The Software Ten-nines Company (President: Toshio Kasamatsu) of Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Kyoto, Japan) has accomplished CMMI Version 1.2\*<sup>1</sup> Level 3, an appraisal of its development capabilities for software.

CMMI standards are used to objectively evaluate the software development capabilities of an organization as a whole and categorize it into five levels, from Level 1 to 5, according to the maturity of its capabilities is now accepted in the United States and all over the world as a de facto standard. Creating development capabilities that are based on CMMI makes development companies more competitive, since CMMI levels have a valuable reputation in software development. CMMI has also become an important barometer used by clients to evaluate technical capabilities while selecting providers of software and IT systems. As a result, CMMI has garnered a great deal of attention from both providers and clients of software products. At the same time, CMMI is also expected to help reduce the risk involved in advancing development projects, and improve product quality.

The Dainippon Screen Group's software development is handled by the Software Ten-nines Company, which has been working to improve the quality of this group's products, including semiconductor production equipment. One of the concrete ways the Software Ten-Nines Company enhanced the development process was to begin process improvements in April 2007 based on CMMI Level 3 (in other words, a level at which the defined processes are applied throughout the organization). They analyzed and determined which improvements were necessary, and put in place an improvement plan, including the enhancement of their development management system and the establishment of unified processes throughout the organization. They recently had their first evaluation by SCAMPI\*<sup>2</sup>, and as a result of these efforts, they were judged to be at Level 3. A capability level 3 process is characterized as a "defined process", and indicates that software is developed using an organizational standard and procedures. For this reason, it certifies that the capabilities of the development company have met certain indispensable conditions. Attaining Level 3 confirms Dainippon Screen's high level of product development capabilities and the superior abilities of its organization.

Dainippon Screen views achieving Level 3 as a starting point for continued improvements to its development processes, and will strive for continued improvements in software QCD (Quality, Cost, and Delivery) while continuing to provide software that offers even better quality and reliability, and contributing to development in a variety of fields.

\*1 CMMI Version 1.2 (Capability Maturity Model Integration Version 1.2)

A system engineering and supply model integrated and developed by the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University in the United States of America at the request and with the assistance of the national military establishment, to create a model that could improve the maturity of processes used during software development (capability maturity model, or CMM). Five level patterns have been defined according to the activities of the company involved, and the most recent version of CMMI, Version 1.2, was released in August 2006.

\*2 SCAMPI (Standard CMMI Appraisal Method for Process Improvement)

SEI has developed a public appraisal method used to determine the process status of groups that use the CMMI model. These appraisals are conducted by an appraiser who has been certified by SEI. To ensure that there is no variability in the results of these appraisals, the evaluation methods and level determination standards are very clear. For SCAMPI under CMMI Version 1.2, the definitions are stricter than in the previous version, Version 1.1, and the results therefore have even greater credibility. What's more, there is now an additional requirement that sampling during the evaluation include at least 50% of the people.

\* CMMI is a registered trademark of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. SCAMPI is a service mark of the same university.



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