

October 7, 2009

Mr. Cary P. Stokes
Deputy Director, 951 ELSG
11 Barksdale Street, Bldg 1614
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731

Dear Mr. Stokes:

The Software Engineering Institute was privileged to participate in your critical change review briefing on Friday, October 2, 2009 at the JMPS Program Office. Your staff is to be commended for the substantial effort required to create an updated schedule based on objective program-wide measures. The data gathered for change request discovery and closure rates and the resulting schedule analysis were excellent. After listening to the presentation and reviewing the supplemental material, we have revised our risk estimate downward to Low-to-Moderate from our initial schedule evaluation delivered on September 16, 2009.

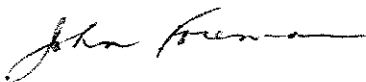
The SEI review team concurs with the schedule adjustments (schedule items of short duration, margin added in certain areas, introduction of Framework 1.3.3 version 4 instead of targeting Framework 1.3.4, much improved insight into the dependencies and critical path that lay ahead, etc). We also applaud the PMO's efforts to take a more proactive role in terms of project oversight, including the initiation of weekly status meetings with the TYBRIN and BAE teams, having BAE developers at TYBRIN to assist with integration, and the Sr Management level stakeholder meetings now being conducted, as an excellent risk reduction strategy very likely to assist the timely identification and resolution of issues. In our view, it is crucial that these steps be captured as program processes, to ensure their continuation in the event there are additional personnel changes during the course of Increment IV development and integration.

What ultimately precluded an unqualified "low-risk" assessment is the integration task. We acknowledge that past integration success is important, and that the majority of the software is not heavily dependent on specifics of the Vista Operating System. However, the limited amount of objective historical data as a foundation for the task duration estimates injects some uncertainty which we cannot completely reconcile.

The SEI review team supports the JMPS Program's efforts to drive to a low risk schedule approach. We believe that, despite the current limited data on the integration and test phase, a proactive, organized, and aggressive acquisition management approach with comprehensive metrics collection and analysis will do much to reduce the remaining risk.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



John Foreman
Chief Engineer, AF Programs
Software Engineering Institute