
FOREWORD

The first two editions of Ben Blanchard's *Systems Engineering Management* are exceptionally fine works and reflect well the evolutionary and emerging developments in the important field of system engineering and the closely related management of system engineering programs and projects. This third edition of the work improves upon the exemplary efforts reflected in the previous two editions through continued enhancements.

The author is one of the most respected system engineering educators in the world today, and this work illustrates his continuing dedication to the profession. The second edition of the book is not, in any sense, obsolete. It is quite useful and relevant. This third edition presents an increased emphasis on such subjects as logistics and supply chain management and system architecting, and explores two system engineering and management-related capability maturity models, integrated product and process development and teams, and the role of the Internet in system engineering and management. Although this new edition is not revolutionary in any sense, it is indeed a significant evolutionary improvement over the fine second edition and is even more relevant.

This text is most useful as a senior-level or beginning graduate-level text in the management of system engineering programs and projects. It may well be used as a text for students in all engineering disciplines, who definitely need, and often do not get, some exposure in their curricula to systems-level thinking. The inclusion of more basic system engineering and analysis material that was not covered in previous editions makes this work even more helpful. The work appears especially useful as a single-source introduction to system engineering and engineering management for undergraduate engineers in all disciplines. It will also be beneficial as a text in system engineering programs and may well be used as the basic text for a single-semester course in engineering management taught at the senior (primarily) or introductory graduate level.

System engineering management needs abound, as evidenced by the continuing drive for enhanced productivity and responsiveness. There is increasing Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) pressure for inclusion of system en-

gineering material in engineering curricula. Thus, this book fills several needs today. It is eminently suitable for use by system engineering majors in an introductory course in system engineering management, as well as for all engineering undergraduate students who wish a definitive presentation of the role of system engineering in enhancing productivity in the public and private sectors.

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