

Current Thinking Checklist (Program example)

Dominating Ideas... What are the overall ideas that control our thinking about the program?

- 1 All functionality must be frozen before QA test starts
- 2 Clients must go through conformance in client test environment
- 3 Creation of test data and validation of test results requires a large number of mandays

Boundaries... What are the boundary conditions for this program?

- 1 Fixed budget for the year
- 2 End to end testing must be done by 5/15/02
- 3 Whatever goes into production must be upgradeable with out obsoleting production code

Assumptions... What are our assumptions about this program?

- 1 New people at this stage will not help
- 2 Clients will be ready on schedule
- 3 The current strategy implied in the current plan is the best strategy

Essential Factors... What is essential? What must always be included in this program?

- 1 Early adopter requirements met
- 2 Focus, no scope creep, freeze
- 3 QA environment is closed & controlled

Avoidance Factors... What must we avoid on this program?

- 1 Pull resources to address other projects
- 2 Not replying to any defect within a few hours

Instructions:

Current Thinking Checklist (Project example)

Semiconductor Industry Example

Dominating Ideas... What are the overall ideas that control our thinking about the project?

- 1 We don't have the right digital/RF/Broadband experience to do this properly.
- 2 The target dates are impossible - management doesn't understand the technical aspects of this project.
- 3 We've already done everything we can to get the scheduled pulled-in.
- 4 We make money selling Silicon.
- 5 We must be first to market.

Boundaries... What are the boundary conditions for this project?

- 1 Production ramp has to occur by Q1 next year.
- 2 The customer needs fully functional samples by Q3 this year.
- 3 We can't get (x) from project (y) until Q4 this year.
- 4 We've been told that we only have 5 part-time designers allocated to this project.
- 5 Existing design tools and rules.

Assumptions... What are our assumptions about this project?

- 1 No one else has developed software like this before.
- 2 We cannot get any more resources for the project & person (x) is only available 25% of the time.
- 3 The FAB cycle always takes a month.
- 4 We've been told that we have to do all the work internally to retain core-competencies and IP.
- 5 Stake-in-the-ground delivery dates from marketing are valid.

Essential Factors... What is essential? What must always be included in this project?

- 1 Performance must be (x).
- 2 The package size must be (y).
- 3 We must include these functions; (a), (b), and (c).
- 4 New chip designs will always require multiple spins.
- 5 Verification must be done in hardware.