

About the Speaker

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Dr. Patrick O'Brien is Program Manager and Senior Risk Analyst at Rockwell Collins, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Rockwell Collins is a first-tier Avionics and Electronics firm serving government and commercial markets around the world. He has extensive experience in helping implement program risk management across large and small-scale avionics and electronics projects and programs in Rockwell and with strategic customers/allies including Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group; other airframe companies; USAF; US Army; US Navy; Litton Industries, Inc.; and regulatory groups.

His specific focus is on the management of risk through scenario planning, effective risk management and robust project and program management processes. He has presented papers and contributed on committees including Practical Software Measurement; Software Engineering Institute; INCOSE; and the Project Management Institute.

Industry analysts and key customers have recognized Collins for the maturity of its management of risk. Customers, business partners and allies of strategic importance have requested and received consulting in program and business risk management from Collins. As a result, O'Brien's work regularly involves him across the value chain of the Collins businesses to foster risk entrepreneurialism and program performance.

Prior to his current business management role, O'Brien was the process owner for Rockwell Collins risk management. He has also been process owner for continuous process improvement and culture change for the Collins businesses. In a former life, he was a tenure-track professor at a state university. He received the M.A. in journalism and Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Iowa. He is a member of the Project Management Institute, and its Risk Management special interest group.

Management of Risk at Rockwell Collins

- **Management of Risk at Rockwell Collins.** Rockwell Collins manages systemic and program-specific risks on its programs and projects. It manages risks across the enterprise through an integrated set of practices and structures including the contractual frame; program performance; and overall operational performance. For example, systemic risks are managed through defined processes, enterprise business systems, and industry involvement. A formal process is applied to all programs in order to identify, characterize, prioritize, avert, track and control program-specific risks throughout their life cycle. Dedicated personnel and infrastructure continuously adapt/develop best practices from external and internal sources. These best practices are applied in all functional areas and business units.
- **Attribution: Itabhi Corporation and Dr. Robert Charette.** Rockwell Collins has been recognized within industry for its advanced risk management program that is based on the work of Dr. Robert N. Charette. Dr. Charette is president of ITABHI Corporation. He is a recognized international authority on large-scale system risk. He is a past chairman and vice-chairman of the National Security Industrial Association Software Committee and served on the National Academy of Science/National Research Council study of NASA's Space Shuttle software development practices. He was lead author of the United Kingdom's government guidelines on software and systems risk management. He is a senior advisor to the Software Productivity Consortium (SPC) and chaired the Software Engineering Institute Risk Advisory Group (SEI). Dr. Charette is leading the effort for the new IEEE software risk management standard, and he is a founder and on the board of advisors for the Project Management Institute's (PMI) Risk Management special interest group.