Multi-company design

Systems & Leadership development program

Accelerating growth by delivering value

System architects operate in a complex and dynamic environment. The challenge is to develop an architecture that deliveres value to stakeholders from market, business and technology. This requires technical leadership competencies and a broad systems overview.

In this program companies participate with a team of 2-4 system architects. Each team is expected to bring an inhouse assignment supported by senior management. This will be the starting point of the program.

This multi-company program inspires participants and challenges them to open their minds for personal growth.

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Multi-company System & Leadership program

Increasing complexity in markets and business requires broad system architects. These system architects play an integrating role between a range of specialized engineers and other stakeholders during the creation of systems. They focus on customer value as well as on their own company's business propositions, while, at the same time, being experts in their own technical and application domain.

As a system architect, you work at the crossroads of systems, customers, and organizational needs. Consequently, you regularly face conflicting needs, opinions and interests. Given this context, how do you lead the design team effectively? How do you balance innovation and risk mitigation, installed base and new systems, short term and long term? How do you share vision and make pragmatic choices at the same time?

You may realize you need to broaden your scope and develop technical leadership skills and thus boost your impact. The training System Architecting focusses on three areas:
1. What you know - system architecting
2. What you do - influencing and leading others
3. Who you are - personal leadership
Developing these three areas will build your skills and confidence in dealing effectively with complexity.

Learning objectives
• Understand how the architecting process fits in the much broader set of company processes.
• Understand the priorities of company processes and their mutual relationships.
• Be able to elicit requirements from different perspectives.
• Be able to apply a collection of system architecting methods and techniques.
• Be able to manage the expectation level of different stakeholders.
• Be able to present architectural issues to less technical management teams.
• Have insight in the many psychological, social, political and cultural aspects that have impact on systems architecting.
• Be better in dealing with ambiguity and conflicting perspectives.
• Be able to better influence others without using power.
• Better understand and manage yourself (what inspires you as well as personal insecurities)

Case driven

All learning will be applied on a business case, to be selected by you and your sponsors. As we know that most agendas are full already, we strongly advise you to select a topic that has already been assigned to you.
Please consider the following in selecting a case:
• The outcome of the case is of significant importance to your company and in need of regular alignment with stakeholders at multiple levels.
• It is positioned at (sub) system level including technical, customer and business aspects.
• A multi-dimensional analysis in both the problem and solution domain is needed.

Multi-company set-up
• 4-6 companies sign in, each with its own team.
• Companies sign in per team (2-4 participants).
• There are six modules in about nine months, a total of ten days (including a number of evenings).
• Between the modules, you will be coached from a content as well as personal perspective.
• It is delivered by Gerrit Muller (Professor in Systems Engineering) and Ale Riedstra (Leadership consultant at The LMS Group).

Prerequisites to participate
• 5-15 years background in engineering, including some years within architecting.
• A growth mindset, eager to develop yourself, open for making mistakes and receiving feedback.
• A company case on which to apply learning.
• A sponsor senior management from whom to receive content coaching and feedback/support.