**OMSE 510 – Distributed Team Collaboration Simulation Roles**

# Team Roles

You will assign team roles as needed to support the work you outline in your Action Plan. You will be given tools to use to assess your skills as a team during Week 3 that should help facilitate this process. Individuals come to teams with documented job descriptions (what they should be able to do) and actual skills, strengths, and interest areas (what they actually can, and want to do). You will be wise to focus on the actual skills, strengths, and interests areas of the individuals on your team. In a distributed environment, role clarity is of extreme importance and anything you can do to define, agree to, reinforce, and continue to reflect on role assignments and mapping tasks to roles will facilitate effective teamwork. You may not have all of the technical skills on your team to fulfill the project requirements. If that is the case, be creative with leveraging what you do have while accounting for any technical skill gaps in your action planning process.

# Sponsor Role

The part of your Sponsor will be played by the instructor. This person will be introduced during the initial Kick-Off meeting. The Sponsor is very motivated to meet the Executive Team’s requirements as it may be a key differentiator for the team and elevate the team and the Sponsor within OMSE, Inc. He/she is new to working with distributed teams and may struggle somewhat with how to maintain control and adequate communication flow as your project gets started. Anything you can do to reassure your Sponsor that you are on track and on task will be well worth your while. While your Sponsor is very keenly interested in this project, he/she is not a micro-manager normally, and does not want to interfere in your project. Your Sponsor may, however, interject some ideas and questions based on his/her experience and the information gained in meetings with the Executive Team and in travels to remote sites during the course of your project. The Sponsor is extremely busy and travels frequently. You will have to set a meeting with the Sponsor at the end of Week 3 to go over your Action Plan. You will be wise to use this time to schedule further meetings as needed, and clarify the preferred process for communication. Also, be aware that the Sponsor has more than one team working on collaborative prototypes. Managing the relationship with the Sponsor and maintaining a focus on the needs of OMSE Inc. will be essential.