# Factors in Building Product Backlogs for Business Owners and Subject Matter Experts

## Effect on Increasing the Priority of Backlog Creation Engagement

* Increased sustainability of backlog readiness for Program Increment planning ( P.I. planning is every 10 weeks)
* Increase the incremental speed of getting individual work items (stories) to the team for refinement and estimation (Refinement is twice weekly)
* Increasing the sustainable delivery of the Agile Release Train
* Increase the production efficiency and maximize the output of the Program Increment

## Effect on increasing the Priority of Business Owner and Subject Matter Expert Involvement

* Building product domain knowledge
* Building speed of identifying answers to work item questions
* Building a community of sharing, expertise, and insight for a product domain

## Expectations and Challenges for Business Owners and Subject Matter Expert

* Participate in helping Product owners Author enough backlog throughout each 10-week program increment to make ready enough backlog work to match 4 sprints of team velocity for the coming 10-week program increment (multiple session up to 4 hours per session for an intense program increment)
  + Identify the role-based interaction (story – who, what and why) for each Feature element (along with the PO = writing Stories)
  + Identify Acceptance Criteria for each role-based increment (= writing/approving changes to Acceptance Criteria)
  + Add clarity
  + Create and Define
  + Answer Questions
  + Bring in SMEs
  + PRIORITIZE THE EFFORT
  + SMEs can be included for additional knowledge and informational support purposes. (Their involvement should not be considered a proxy that removes the B.O. from duties, responsibilities, or authority = still ultimately accountable.)
* Participate in answering question for teams (could be a select SME) when they refine 4 sprints worth of backlog work items to match team velocity for a coming 10-week program increment (a few hours of responding to questions per program increment). Making decisions required the B.O., not just an SME.

## Possible solutions to challenges

* More Business Owners assigned to features: *This would equal less time required to work on the above with Product Owners and Teams. (For example, A Program Manager might need segmented B.O.s to features – SME’s maybe become B.O. as it needs to scale?)*
  + *Question: as an area of a program grows – a B.O. could become a program manager, and their SMEs become B.O.s?*
* Faster scheduling of Business Owners: *Reduce the timeframe for scheduling backlog creation efforts with Product Owners to less than 7 business days on average.*
* More Subject Matter experts: *Each Backlog work item (story) requires more detailed identification of functional criteria for success (acceptance criteria) and may require a Business Analyst or Subject Matter Expert participate in backlog building at the request of the Business Owner. If the Business Owner does not personally have the expertise at the needed level of operational depth understanding current state of solutions, then the Business owner would need to identify appropriate S.M.E.s and invite them to the backlog building meetings created by the Product Owner.*
* Faster scheduling of Subject Matter experts: *Both the identification of the S.M.E. as well as the ability for the Business Owner to bring them along to the Product Owner’s Backlog Building session in short order would significantly shorten the amount of time required to build out the appropriate amount of backlog readiness for coming P.I.s in a sustainable manner.*