



BRIEFING PAPER

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ATERN FROM DSDM

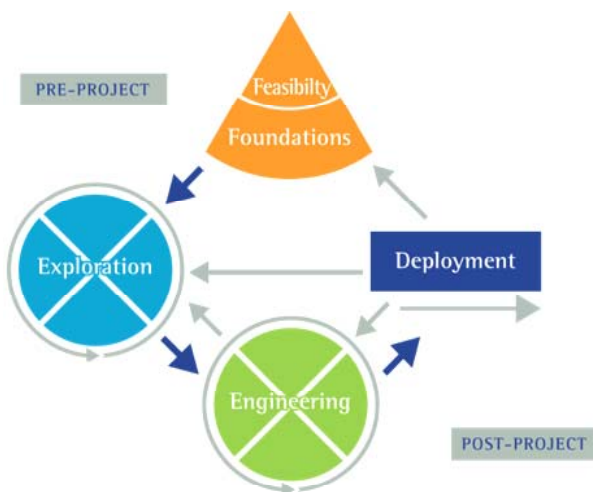
THE DYNAMIC SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT METHOD



Atern is the latest evolution of the DSDM method that has been in widespread use since its release in 1994. Owned and supported by the DSDM Consortium and free to use, Atern addresses the requirements of both Project Management and Solution Delivery. The DSDM Consortium (www.dsdm.org) continues to operate a Certification and Accreditation system for individuals and organisations that is widely recognised across industry groups, including the British Computer Society. Originally an approach for Rapid Application Development of IT systems, with Atern, DSDM has evolved into an industrial strength Agile method that may be equally applied to IT or Business Projects.

Atern Lifecycle and Work Products

The flexible Atern lifecycle framework can be used equally for iterative, Agile projects using working prototypes, and also for traditional Waterfall projects that use written functional and design specifications.



Atern defines acceptance criteria for the minimum set of work products that should be completed at each project stage - the work products may of course be started earlier.

Work Products with Acceptance Criteria

- » **Feasibility Stage**
 - Feasibility assessment
- » **Foundations Stage**
 - Business Foundations
 - Solution Foundations
 - Management Foundations
- » **Exploration & Engineering Stages**
 - Evolving Solution
 - Business Analysis Model
 - Design Model
 - Business and Technical Testing Suites
 - Timebox Plans and Review Records
 - Deployable Solution & Deployment Plan
- » **Deployment Stage**
 - Deployed Solution
 - Support Documentation
 - Business User Documentation
 - Trained Users
 - Project Review Report
 - Increment Review Document



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Atern Roles and Responsibilities

Atern defines both user and supplier-side roles and responsibilities for a joint project

» Project Level Roles

- Business Sponsor: Owns the Business Case, commits funds and resources
- Business Visionary: Defines, owns and communicates the business Vision
- Project Manager: From Business or IT
- Technical Co-ordinator: Ensures the solution is technically fit for purpose

» Solutions Development Team Roles

- Team Leader: One for each small team
- Business Ambassador: Defines detail of requirements, acceptance tests solution
- Business Analyst: Ensures the business need is properly thought through
- Solution Developer: Creates the Solution
- Solution Tester: Plans, defines and performs all non-user testing

Principles of DSDM Atern

- Focus on the **business need**
- Deliver **on time**
- **Collaborate**
- Never compromise **Quality**
- Develop **Iteratively**
- Build **incrementally** from firm foundations
- Communicate **continuously** and clearly
- Demonstrate **Control**

Atern Techniques

Atern provides techniques for both Project Management and Development

» Management Techniques

- Timeboxing and MoSCoW Prioritisation
- Project Planning and Management
- Risk Management
- Estimating and Measuring
- Quality Management

» Development Techniques

- Facilitated Workshops
- Modelling
- Iterative Development and Testing
- Configuration Management

Further information

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About RADTAC

RADTAC provides Consulting, Training and Delivery Services for Agile Methods, Project Management, Systems Development and Process Improvement.

We provide unique in-depth expertise across a full range of services; including Certified Training in Scrum, DSDM / Atern, XP, Lean, Agile Unified Process, PRINCE2 and ITIL.