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February 5, 1992

Dear Mikel:

At the outset I would like to thank you for being responsive to our desire to benefit from the structured 6σ design methodologies that have been evolving over the past years within Motorola. Our past association gave me every confidence that this would be of value to the design teams on the Iridium™ Program and I am pleased to say that I was not disappointed. The Six Sigma RF Design Optimization Pilot though containing electrical design examples, clearly employs a methodology applicable to most design disciplines and can be used to teach digital and other design engineers with the appropriately tailored example set.

The 25+ attendees from SATCOM, SED, Lockheed and Raytheon all had very positive comments about the effectiveness of the course content. Though some of them may have come into the course with the expectations that they would leave as experts, and others may have been asked to attend and arrived with some skepticism, I believe all left with a uniform understanding of what the course's objectives and prerequisites were, and felt comfortable with that. I do believe that when in final form, the course should be comprehensive enough that the techniques are directly applicable on the job, with only the occasional consultation with a "Black Belt" on the specific tool application expertise and to help with analysis and interpretation of results.

I would like to reiterate that the blend of sound engineering knowledge, judgement and experience resident in the designers themselves, with the methodology and statistical tools provided in this course tend to make designers "whole" in the sense that they now have the opportunity to utilize these tools where they are judged to be beneficial to design analysis and optimization.

Also, it is clear that the maximum benefit from such a course would be derived from prior knowledge of Design of Experiments (Full, Partial Factorial and Screening Designs), Response Surface Mapping and gradient search techniques, which should be made a prerequisite. This would enable the course design to be focused more on the methods, tools and application of the techniques without an in-depth review of these statistical methods.

I will be looking forward to our continuing interface and will be sending another group of attendees to the April offering of the above course as discussed with you earlier. Please inform me what dates will be suitable so that we may better plan to get people identified and trained in the prerequisites prior to that date.