

VA Enterprise Architecture Management Suite Established for OneVA EA

Washington, D.C., August 2013 – The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Architecture, Strategy and Design (ASD) achieved a major OneVA Enterprise Architecture (EA) milestone this month with the establishment of the first phase of the VA Enterprise Architecture Management Suite (VEAMS). The VEAMS, a suite of products and capabilities that allow for the creation, maintenance, evolution, and use of the OneVA EA, will incrementally evolve from basic modeling and repository tools into planning, portfolio, governance, and visualization focused capabilities as the business needs and the architecture mature. The first product available is IBM® Rational® System Architect (SA), which will be used as an enterprise architecture solution for visualizing, analyzing, and communicating enterprise architecture. Rational System Architect includes modeling, publishing, analysis, and execution capabilities. It will be used to build and store parts of the OneVA EA, effectively enabling data to become visible and transparent to all internal and external stakeholders. This cornerstone data will be built upon by successive products and capabilities, as the VEAMS evolves, to improve OneVA EA's value to decision makers.

The establishment of VEAMS began in fiscal year 2012 when stakeholders from across the Administrations provided business requirements for the creation of a comprehensive Enterprise-wide tool suite. More than 2,000 requirements were gathered and, grouped into several major tool categories to include: project management, requirements management, modeling, portfolio management, configuration management and other technical capabilities. Prioritizing on first building the OneVA EA, numerous industry vendor modeling tools were assessed against the collected requirements. SA, which was launched on August 16, 2013, was selected as the initial tool to provide basic modeling capabilities; marking the inauguration of VEAMS and its availability to the VA Enterprise. Business analysts, architects and program managers from across the VA will be able to participate in training, offered by the Office of Enterprise Architecture (OEA), Office of Information & Technology, Architecture Strategy and Design (OIT/ASD). The initial training will include EA 101 (Overview and Use) and a tutorial on the use of System Architect. OEA will tailor the training to ensure optimal value is gained relative to participants' respective architecture initiatives.

VEAMS adds value to the Department by facilitating an overarching goal which every federal agency is currently striving to achieve and sustain: an integrated view of strategic, business, and technology domains across all lines of business, services, and systems. Architecture Federation is the approach



being used at the VA to build the OneVA EA. It enables the linking, locating, and aggregation of disparate architectures and related information, thus creating the aforementioned integrated view while also providing partners the requisite autonomy to meet their specific requirements. Coupling this approach with essential tool capabilities and using the resultant architecture within the VA decision processes, enables the VA to plan and project the balance and lifecycle of its budget and resources for the future.

As the VA evolves to face the consistent whirlwind of change in expectations and technologies, the VEAMS will also evolve. VEAMS will support realization of an enterprise information environment to help achieve the goals and objectives of the VA to become better stewards of budget and resources; hence, better serving our Veterans and the Public Trust.

For more information about OneVA Enterprise Architecture please visit <http://vaww.ea.oit.va.gov/>.