Standard Korean Light Transit System

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This example was created as a SE example directly for the SEBoK. It deals with systems engineering (SE) concepts and guidelines applied to the development of the Standard Korean Light Transit System (SKLTS). In Korea, local authorities had historically been interested in light transit to help resolve their transportation problems. The SKLTS was a joint effort between local authorities and the central government. It was built to provide a standard platform on which any local authority could construct its own light transit system. The issues of stakeholder requirements, safety, and reliability, availability, and maintainability were critical to the success of this system.

Contents

Description
Summary
References
  Works Cited
  Primary References
  Additional References

Description

The elements of the SKLTS were classified into four groups (as shown in Figure 1): trains, signal systems,
electric and machinery (E&M) systems, and structures. Trains and vehicles were to be automatically operated, without need for human operators. Operation systems and their interfaces were based on digital signals and communications. For SKLTS, SE-based design activities focused on reliability, availability, maintainability, and safety (RAMS), and were integrated into project management (PM) activities during all phases.

The project life cycle for the SKLTS is summarized in Figure 2. It consisted of 7 phases: concept studies, concept development, preliminary design, design, system production and testing, performance evaluation, and operation/maintenance/close-out (OMC) - please see (Choi 2007) and (Chung et al. 2010) for further details. These phases, with the exception of the production and test phases, are completed through an evaluation and decision point (EDP) (milestone), depicted as a colored circle in Figure 2. These EDPs correspond to common life cycle artifacts such as requests for proposal (RFPs), proposals, preliminary design reviews (PDRs), and critical design reviews (CDRs).

During the SKLTS development, SE activities were focused on RAMS as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. The SE Framework of the SKLTS (Ahn 2005). Reprinted with permission of the Journal of the Korean Society for Railway. All other rights are reserved by the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Reliability</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept studies</td>
<td>• Requirements analysis</td>
<td>• Identifying RAM conditions</td>
<td>• System configuration</td>
<td>• Performance simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• RAM allocation</td>
<td>• Interface management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept development &amp; pre-design</td>
<td>• Safety planning</td>
<td>• RAM planning</td>
<td>• Defining scenarios and alarm procedure</td>
<td>• Interface analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Defining safety procedures &amp; levels</td>
<td>• Initial availability analysis</td>
<td>• Pre-designing command rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>• Hazard log</td>
<td>• Reporting RAM analysis</td>
<td>• Defining alarm systems</td>
<td>• Interface analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Safety case analysis</td>
<td>• RAM analysis</td>
<td>• Train analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Risk analysis</td>
<td>• RAM analysis of auxiliary systems</td>
<td>• Functionality analysis of stations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance evaluation</td>
<td>• Safety test planning &amp; testing</td>
<td>• Verification and Validation (V&amp;V) RAM</td>
<td>• System test planning and testing</td>
<td>• Performance test planning &amp; testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Maintainability test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Operation</td>
<td>• System acceptance</td>
<td>• RAM monitoring</td>
<td>• Analyzing systems</td>
<td>• Performance monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Driver certification</td>
<td>• FRACAS*</td>
<td>• Identifying improvement points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FRACAS: Failure Reporting & Corrective Action System

In the "concept studies" and "concept development" phases, requirements included the RAMS objectives. Planning activities in this phase included the scheduling of various tests and evaluations to be conducted after system design. The basic layout of rails and command rooms was also proposed. Finally, it was during this phase that interface management procedures and relationships between requirements and systems were defined. For RAMS engineering, it was also important to establish associated plans and criteria (e.g., RAM plans, safety plans, service availability, etc.).

During the pre-design phase, the basic architecture of the system was determined for safety planning, RAMS planning, and operational scenarios. Interfaces among subsystems, management procedures for contractors and legal regulations were defined. were defined as well as management procedures for contractors and legal regulations. The functional analysis dealt with timeline, accuracy of stop points, and trip times. Pre-design
activities also included the specifications of major system elements such as signal systems, trains, and interfaces. For RAMS engineering, safety scenarios were defined, and the hazard and risk analyses were performed.

During the design and performance evaluation phases, hazard log and RAMS analyses were performed to ensure that each subsystem met safety requirements. The specifications of alarm systems and stations were also defined. In addition, V&V and test procedures were determined for performance evaluation. During the design phase, a design/construction interface manual (D/CIM) was developed and applied to ensure integrated and consistent design. (Bombardier, 2005.)

Because SKLTS was designed as an automatically-driven system, RAMS issues were critical to its success. The safety and reliability of the SKLTS were evaluated on a test railway that was constructed to standard specifications. Data was gathered from existing Korean light rail systems, as well as the light rail systems from other countries, to support V&V activities.

Various methods were applied for achieving the RAMS objectives, including RAMS requirements analysis, safety and RAMS planning, utilization of systems scenarios, and construction risk analysis.

Initial operation of SKLTS was allowed only after the system was formally accepted and operators were properly certified. During test operation, RAMS performance was continuously monitored and system scenarios were used successfully to evaluate the dynamic behavior of the system. A failure reporting and corrective action system (FRACAS) was used to gather accident and failure data. Continuous improvement when the system is in normal operation was identified as a requirement; the results from the FRACAS will be used to support improvement of the system, maintenance, and improvement of procedures.

Summary

Korean local authorities have successfully introduced the SKLTS to their precincts with some modifications. Successful examples include the Inchun Airport Line and the Seoul 9th Subway Line. One lesson learned that was identified was that requirement analysis, especially in the first few phases, should have been more complete.
References

Works Cited


Primary References

None.

Additional References


