

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **RSS LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST OFFICIAL LEAD AUDITOR COURSE FOR LEAN AND SIX SIGMA IMPLEMENTATION, BASED ON ISO18404**

Following the publication of the international standard ISO18404:2015 in December of last year, and the recent announcement by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) of its development project for accreditation of certification under the standard, the Royal Statistical Society, as the sponsoring body, is running the world's first official Lead Auditor Course for Lean and Six Sigma implementation in London on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Until this point there has been no internationally agreed standard of practice for Lean or Six Sigma implementation, either in terms of organisational implementation, or individual practitioner competencies. Organisational implementations of Lean and Six Sigma are growing in popularity and have, where well implemented, delivered major process, product and service improvements and cost savings.

The publication of ISO18404 dispenses with the need for the myriad of local or unrecognised accreditations or certifications currently in place, of varied pedigree and integrity, and based on varied criteria, as everyone worldwide recognises the value of an ISO standard. The sweeping success of standards such as ISO9001 and ISO14001 has established the ISO certification 'brand' globally.

Accordingly, the first assessment centre for Master Black Belts, Black Belts, Lean Practitioners and Lean Experts under the standard will take place in London in early December, and it is anticipated that following this and the training of Lead Auditors, the first organisational certifications for Lean and Six Sigma should expect to take place by mid-2017.

The Royal Statistical Society sees its sponsorship of the sector scheme, which it developed in partnership with a number of well-known UKAS accredited certification bodies, as an important contribution to improving current practice in organisational improvement and change management. Professor Tony Bendell, the project manager for the sector scheme and who will be conducting the Lead Auditor course, has described the current situation as untenable with the new standard coming at just the right time

Hetan Shah, the Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society, said:

*'The Royal Statistical Society is delighted to pioneer this work to help strengthen the application of Six Sigma and Lean across the world.'*

**ENDS**

## **CONTACTS**

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