



Business Excellence Architects LTD

## Press Release

March 14, 2006

The New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation



### **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT METHODOLOGY FINDS FAVOUR WITH FOUNDATION**

**The New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation announced today that it had formally endorsed a home grown process improvement methodology; TurboSigma™ in an arena dominated by international heavy weights.**

NZBEF Chief Executive, Mike Watson and BEA counterpart; Grant Ford concluded negotiations this week that will see the Foundation sponsoring courses in the TurboSigma™ methodology to its membership from May this year - hot on the heels of recent AUT University inclusion of TurboSigma™ in the design of some of its upcoming graduate diploma courses.

The Baldrige Criteria forms the basis for most of New Zealand's Business Excellence Awards. Whilst the Foundation provides a suite of assessment services benchmarked against the internationally respected criteria, they see a major gap in the market for a generic "Business Improvement" methodology that utilizes "quality tools", to not only enable the business to quickly identify and prioritize improvement opportunities but also provide the means to deliver on those opportunities and make real progress in improving business performance. According to the Foundation, TurboSigma™ could well be the missing link.

Watson is no stranger to the TurboSigma™ methodology from his time at award winning Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance (now Vero Insurance). He commented that the Baldrige criteria itself has started to recognize the contribution that a 'six sigma' type implementation can make in advancing organizations against the Criteria, notwithstanding the complexity of trying to implement Lean/ Six Sigma approaches.

Independent evaluation carried out prior to the licensing of divisions at Fonterra concluded TurboSigma™; as its name implies, is consistent with six sigma style implementations but was, "A much smaller tool to do a much larger job".

BEA founder and CEO, Grant Ford views TurboSigma™ as, 'an overnight sensation- fifteen years in the making'. The licensed methodology he refers to as "uncommon good sense" is part of a suite of 'how to' tools his organization has put together to fill what he refers to as the, "void filled with lot's of talk but precious little transferable methodology".

Ford, a former program director of the NZBEF's predecessor; the New Zealand Quality Foundation, has dedicated himself to creating best practice tools for assisting organizations to innovate and accelerate the attainment of their performance excellence goals.

He says, "World class organizations are uniquely themselves but they have some key characteristics in common:

- 1 they have a framework of excellence to think with (e.g. the Baldrige Criteria);
- 2 they plan out to 3-5 years but they do it 4-6 times a year;
- 3 they have integrated the measures of the health of their organization with the day to day operational measurements that dictate that health and;
- 4 above all they have a process/discipline by which all other processes can be improved.

For more on the work of the Foundation and TurboSigma™ see:

[www.nzbef.org.nz](http://www.nzbef.org.nz)

[www.busxarchitects.com](http://www.busxarchitects.com)

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