What is LiftOff?

Via Deborah Preuss. *Also In 5 languages at* **agileambulance.com/**liftoff

LiftOff refers to time set aside by a collaborative community (a team, a project) to intentionally explore and set in place what's needed for a successful shared outcome.

The activities to include in a LiftOff will vary according to team and context, and may include building the vision with leadership or training those who must deliver on the vision.

There is a central practice that we'd like to see become common to all effective LiftOffs: **Agile Chartering***.* This is "small a agile" chartering, that is to say "just enough" chartering, in contrast with heavier "up-front" traditional chartering processes defined by, for example, the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Agile Chartering has been in use for years by pracitioners like Diana Larsen, Ainsley Nies, Joshua Kerievsky, III and others.

The structure of Agile Chartering is described in the 2nd half of the book "LiftOff". But a *short* definition is useful, too! Here is an early look at the "one-pager" that Fabian Schiller has in progress on behalf of the LiftOff14 core team

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What is Agile Chartering?

In 140 Characters: Better teams create better outcomes. Agile Chartering is a vehicle to start teams off for success [by co-creating a shared view on purpose, alignment and context].

In 200 Words: Agile Chartering is an investment in working groups and projects to make them more successful. The purpose of an Agile Chartering workshop is to give all stakeholders of a project a voice and the opportunity to co-create a common understanding of the project dynamics, its purpose and context. It creates co-ownership of the project within the project team and thereby higher commitment to the project goals.

The three main dimensions of Agile Chartering are:

Purpose: The whole group revises the initial purpose statement and works out project vision, mission and mission tests, that are good enough for now (GEFN) to start.

Alignment: The group works out the values and principles in the project and it clearly defines who is in the core team.

Context: The group figures out what the boundaries of the group are, how and with whom they will have to interact and does some risk and prospective analysis.

The outcome of an Agile Chartering Workshop is not a final document. It will always be in a draft state and must be revised on a regular basis by the whole group, whenever the project or team changes or learns something new.

In a picture: (next page)

More information:
Book: **LiftOff: Launching Agile Teams and Projects** by Diana Larsen & Ainsley Nies. Twitter tag: #liftingoff