

Project Management Technology Support

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

EPMA optimized the Project Management Office (PMO) of a leading manufacturer of oil-drilling equipment by streamlining their processes and overhauling their approach to managing projects and resources. As part of the optimization, EPMA implemented Microsoft Project Server to meet the organizational design demands and to effectively manage their enterprise level portfolio.

EPMA implementation experts integrated the robust Microsoft PPM solution with the clients existing systems and automated many manual features of the tool to reduce the amount time Project Managers spent creating reports. The successful PM tool implementation coupled with EPMA's unparalleled training and on-going support services lead to increased productivity of the entire PMO.

THE KEY ISSUES

*"We needed to find a way to report on our resource capacity to get a better understanding of our resource utilization, we also wanted to track the cost of our projects more efficiently. EPMA was fundamental in creating reports that would pull the data exactly as we needed."*

- Bill E., PMO Manager

The drilling-equipment manufacturer had outgrown its simple project management solutions and looked to EPMA to help integrate a powerful PPM tool to address the limited resource capacity that constrained productivity. In addition, the organization needed to be able to quickly and effectively report on project status's to managers and stakeholders within their parent organization.

In addition to needing a more robust PPM tool to help manage their projects overall, EPMA identified crucial areas that would continue to negatively impact their projects, even after a successful implementation of Microsoft Project Server.

Specific issues that the client needed the PPM tool to address included:

Additional challenges that EPMA identified for the client included:

- Facilitating and reporting on resource capacity and planning
- Efficiently track project costs
- The ability to automatically update resource data

- Project schedules did not accurately reflect resource planned work
- Important resource data was not being captured
- Resources did not have the ability to report actual work effort

*"During support, our parent company needed to have constant updates made to their system as their understanding of the tool improved and their internal processes evolved. Knowledge transfer has been important for them. EPMA provided a resource to be on-site one day a week."*

- Bill E., PMO Manager

OUR SOLUTIONS

Addressing the unique needs of a small organization that was experiencing sudden growth, EPMA developed a PPM solution and implementation strategy that would progress according to the client's preferred pace, worked hand-in-hand with the client's existing IT staff, and provided post-implementation support. The cooperative effort lead to:



Identification of key business drivers that allowed for automatic prioritization of the increasing number of projects in the clients pipeline.



Well trained project managers both within the client and the clients parent organization in utilizing the tool while adhering to project management best practices.



Time sheet functionality to accommodate user-directed progress tracking that allowed for resource utilization reporting.



A custom interface between the clients existing MSPS and SAP systems to capture resource records data.



Detailed resource reports for resource planners, project managers, financial planners, and executives.



Reduced manual effort by automating administrative actions.



Project schedules that accurately reflected managers' project goals.

VALUE ADDED

*"The team at EPMA is always willing to help with any issue we have, no matter how big or small, they are always quick to resolve our issues: their knowledge of the tool is extensive."*

- WT, Project Manager

Originally engaged to implement Microsoft Project Server to replace an outdated system of project tracking, EPMA identified several key deficiencies in the client's project management processes that impacted the data that was being collected. Based on EPMA's recommendations, the client saw improved project schedules that aligned with stakeholder goals, more accurate reporting of resource time and improved resource tracking.

After the Microsoft Project Server implementation was successfully completed, EPMA provided project management training for project managers to ensure that the entire organization followed consistent processes and methods in utilizing the tool. Following the implementation, EPMA provided an on-site dedicated resource to provide administrative and technical guidance until the company had fully implemented the tool into their standard operating procedure.