

ROKE MANOR RESEARCH:

Smart About Project Risk

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Roke Manor Research has made schedule risk management and the use of Primavera Pertmaster mandatory for 200 staff members for all but the very smallest of projects.
- The company has enhanced its reputation for the on-time delivery of solutions to customers' complex requirements.

Founded in 1956 and wholly owned by Siemens since 1991 Roke Manor Research is a UK contract research and development business providing solutions to government and commercial organizations. Using skills in areas from electronics and software engineering to image processing across markets from homeland security, to aerospace, telecommunications and finance, Roke engineers specialize in delivering solutions to difficult problems quickly.

ON SCHEDULE?

Roke engineers are committed to maintaining and enhancing the company's reputation for delivering solutions on time and to budget. However, it used to be the case that forecast development costs and time scales were subjective and varied from project manager to project manager. There were difficulties in assessing the confidence level of achieving key project dates and thus schedules were sometimes discovered, late in the day, to be at risk; a situation requiring a lot of expensive fire-fighting to bring them back on target and which occasionally led to missed delivery forecasts.

In 2001 formal risk management techniques were adopted at Roke to achieve more certainty of development costs and time scales. But at first, with project management and risk tools being procured from different suppliers, compatibility problems arose with seeking to exchange data between them and in attempting to draw multiple reports together to create holistic views for top management.

IN COMES PERTMASTER

After a detailed evaluation of schedule risk management tools, Roke chose Pertmaster as its corporate standard for project cost and schedule management.

"Pertmaster's integrated approach dramatically simplifies and speeds up the risk analysis process," said Bob Dagleish, a project manager at Roke. "The simplicity helps to de-mystify the risk analysis process and hence increases 'buy-in' by staff, whilst the speed of use saves our project managers many hours a month."

A lorry scanning system to detect illegal immigrants delivered in just seven months, a solution for monitoring video from the back of a moving train to help reduce the delays and costs incurred by leaves on railway lines and upgrading National Air Traffic Services' (NATS) vision-based weather monitoring system were all delivered against schedules supported by Pertmaster.



The real benefit of our approach to risk analysis is that we've developed a reputation for delivering on time and this results in much repeat business.

Bob Dagleish, Roke Manor Research



Pertmaster's integrated approach dramatically simplifies and speeds up the risk analysis process.

Bob Dalglish, Roke Manor Research

CONFIDENCE

Effective schedule risk management also helped Roke to deliver a world-leading service and network problem management system on time just eight months after contract award.

"By determining the best case, worst case and most likely estimates for activities in the project, we were able to run simulations showing the likelihood of completing the project by a certain date and to a certain cost," explained Dalglish. "By using the 95 percent confidence level, we have found over a number of years that completion dates and costs can be predicated much more reliably than previously."

REPUTATION

Following Roke's success with Pertmaster, its use is now mandatory across Roke for project control including schedule and cost risk analysis. Some 200 staff use the tool in their daily activities for all but the very smallest of projects.

Dalglish concluded, "The real benefit of our approach to risk analysis is that we've developed a reputation for delivering on time and this results in much repeat business."



AMERICAS HEADQUARTERS

THREE BALA PLAZA WEST
BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004 USA

P. +1.610.667.8600
1.800.423.0245

F. +1.610.667.7894

info@primavera.com

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

METRO BUILDING
1 BUTTERWICK
LONDON W6 8DL, UK

P. +44.20.8563.5500

F. +44.20.8563.5533

intlinfo@primavera.com

www.primavera.com

Copyright© 2008 Primavera Technologies, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Primavera, the Primavera Sundial, Primavera Contract Manager, P6, P6 Primavera, Primavera Pertmaster, Pertmaster, and Primavera Inspire are trademarks or registered trademarks of Primavera Technologies, Inc. ProSight is a trademark or a registered trademark of Primavera ProSight Ltd. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.