

Project Success Method

Outfit your organization



When your organization has gained some experience and enjoyed success using *The Project Success Method*, you will recognize the value of developing a project management system. A project management system is an integrated set of organizational and technological elements that supports the effective application of project management on your projects. The system is not specific to a single project, but is a permanent infrastructure that is intended for use on a continuing stream of projects.

Some of the typical elements of a project management system are:

- Project management policies and procedures manual
- Project management software tool and other related software
- Standard formats for planning and control documents/reports
- Standard codes for cost categories, resource types, etc.
- Group communications technologies, such as video-conferencing and intranets
- Template planning documents (charters, project networks, schedules, budgets) for common types of projects

Some organizations create a “project office,” which is a staff function that has responsibility for developing and maintaining the project management system. The project office also trains, coaches, and assists project managers in the application of the system. Project offices help ensure that the effective practice of project management continues and improves over the long term, as individuals join and leave the organization.

Just as you would outfit a mountain climbing team differently depending upon the type of mountain climbing they intend to do and the conditions under which they will do it, project management systems must be tailored to the environment in which they will operate. How many projects do you usually have going on at any given time? How large are your projects in terms of duration, cost, number of people/organizations involved, and number of activities? How complex are your projects, and how much uncertainty is involved? How tightly constrained are your project durations and the resources available to work on your projects? Are resources shared across multiple projects? How skilled are your project managers in terms of the project management methodology, leadership ability, and the use of software tools? All of these factors, among others, must be taken into consideration in developing an effective project management system for an organization.

A well-designed project management system will make it much easier to use project management and to achieve project success. And let’s face it; we are all much more likely to use an approach that is easy as well as effective.