

## APMG EVALUATION SERVICE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

### BRONZE REPORT

Number 12

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*Product:* **CA Clarity PPM Accelerator for PRINCE2**

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of the CA Clarity PPM Accelerator for PRINCE2, a software module from CA, Inc., which I conducted on Wednesday 2 April 2008.

CA Clarity is an application that provides enterprise IT portfolio planning and analysis functionality with IT portfolio, project, resource, financial and process management capability. The PRINCE2 Accelerator module cannot be used as a stand-alone application and is only intended for use as an optional add-on to the main application.

This module allows the PRINCE2 methodology to be used in conjunction with the CA Clarity system. Once installed, the module's controls are included in the navigation bar on the left-hand side of the screen. These lead to reports, the stage plan, risks, issues and change requests logs, lessons learned and an executive dashboard.

When creating a new project, you are given the option of using a PRINCE2 project template. Once this option is selected and certain project details have been entered and saved, the PRINCE2 work breakdown structure, products, controls and templates are embedded in the project. Project Board members and approvers are then named.

Thereafter, when any PRINCE2 product or report (including Highlight, Checkpoint, Exception and End Stage reports) is produced and submitted for approval, it progresses through its own predefined approval process. Approvers are notified and all approvers must pass a product before it may proceed. The approval process, along with notification message content and many other system features are fully configurable.

A PRINCE2 task screen lists all of the PRINCE2 products within the project work breakdown structure.

Project Managers may view a dashboard that lists, and displays the status of, all of their PRINCE2 projects - whether or not they're on track, the project outlook and the risk, issue and change request status. Another dashboard area shows the approval status of all project reports and a Project by Stages portlet compares the actual time taken by each project stage.

Executives have their own PRINCE2 dashboard that enables them to view the status of all the PRINCE2 projects in their portfolio. They can list all of the PRINCE2 reports and projects,

along with risks, issues and change requests, view their status and other information, and drill down for detailed information. A Projects by Stages pie chart compares the proportion of projects at each stage of development.

CA has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of this product falls within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance documents covering Project Management, but only when used in conjunction with the main application. I concur with their opinion. CA also states that this tool is fully PRINCE2 compliant. To the extent of my limited exposure to this product at this level of assessment, I confirm that this tool does appear to be appropriately compliant.

In my opinion, this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have accordingly agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with CA, Inc., which is attached to this report.

S. Cotterell

9 April 2008