

BPiP

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of BPiP Version 2, an application from CRM S.A. of Warsaw, Poland, that I conducted on Monday, 20 June 2005

‘BPiP’ is the acronym for Biuro Programów i Projektów (Programme and Project Office). The application was originally written entirely as a Polish language tool, but has since been translated into English. The English version is the subject of this assessment.

BPiP is a Web-based project management system, built around the PRINCE2 methodology, that users can access using a standard browser.

The opening screen lists documents awaiting the user’s attention and tabs at the top of the screen provide access to the system’s Projects, Programmes and Templates areas. The ‘Projects’ area lists those projects that the user has the appropriate security rights to access and clicking on the name of a project displays its details.

Once a project has been created, the way in which it proceeds through the PRINCE2 process is controlled by BPiP’s automated workflow system. This can be set to enforce either a ‘simplified’ or a ‘full’ workflow by the user and is intended to be used to prevent time being wasted on the over-documentation of small projects.

When a project is created, its first stage is created automatically. At each stage clicking on an ‘Add a document’ link opens a drop-down list offering the user only those documents appropriate to the project stage reached and that have not already been started. When a document is created, the appropriate data within BPiP’s database is selected. A Word document that has been created using a customisable template containing help about its required contents is then opened. A macro is used to transfer the earmarked data into the new document. When editing is complete, the document is copied into BPiP’s database, from where it’s automatically subjected to the approval process.

CRM S.A. has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of these products fall within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance documents covering Programme Management, Project Management and Risk Management. I concur with this opinion. The principal purpose of BPiP is to apply PRINCE2 functionality to the process of project management. At this stage I have found no reason to suppose that BPiP is not in complete conformance with this methodology.

In my opinion, this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have accordingly agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with CRM SA.

S. Cotterell

24 June 2005