

# APMG EVALUATION SERVICE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

## BRONZE REPORT

Number 13

*Company:*

**Pixham Ltd.**

*Address:*

1 Shiffolds, Tanhurst Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH15 6LZ

*Tel:* 07957 611 664

*Email:* jhopper@pixham.com

*Product:*

**Pixham Business Benefits Manager**

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of Pixham Business Benefits Manager, an application from Pixham Ltd., that I conducted on Monday, 30 June 2008

Pixham Business Benefits Manager has been developed with the intention of providing a common framework and a set of tools for managing the benefits of a programme of projects. It is a stand-alone application that runs under both Windows XP and Vista operating systems. The software, which has been designed to support the management of a single programme of projects, is supplied pre-installed on a laptop computer (the cost of which is included in the price of the software) although it may be installed on clients' PCs and networks.

The application will support multiple user accounts although only one user may access the system at any given moment. An on-line help system is supplied with the software and more help is available via the Web.

When someone logs in to the system, entering their username and password, they see the Programme Summary screen, which initially is empty. To set the system up, details of the programme are entered along with an estimation of the end benefits expected from it.

The details of the intermediate benefits that contribute to each of the end benefits can then be entered and, if wished, each weighted according to its importance to the end benefit it feeds.

At any point it is possible to enter and prioritise high-level risks and issues against both the programme and each of its end and intermediate benefits. Actions can also be added to these entities.

Once the programme is running, the user enters the organisation's performance against each of the intermediate benefits, either in cash terms or (for non-financial benefits) using a key performance indicator (KPI) scale of their own devising.

Users can define as many status levels as are required to be used during the construction of reports and these are illustrated using a system of red/amber/green (RAG) signals. Once the programme is running, these levels are used in the automatic calculation of status reports.

When the Programme Summary screen is displayed, the user can drill down to see the details of both the end and intermediate benefits. The drill down screens include graphical and RAG displays comparing actual performance with that forecast, information about risks, issues and actions and details of historic performance.

Other detailed graphical reports are available that compare the organisation's actual programme end and intermediate benefit performance against the originally indicated targets. These reports are displayed on-screen and can be printed using PDF and XPS format.

Pixham has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of this product falls within the field of guidance offered by the OGC's Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) documentation covering Benefits Management and that their product complies with this guidance in all respects. I concur with their opinion.

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

S. Cotterell

1 July 2008